



**SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 126th IPU ASSEMBLY
Kampala (Uganda)
28 March-5 April 2012**

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INTRODUCTION

The 126th IPU Assembly was inaugurated on 31 March 2012 at a ceremony held at the Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: (Delegations of national parliaments of 120 countries): Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members: East African Legislative Assembly, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Latin American Parliament and Transitional Arab Parliament.

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Millennium Campaign, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); (ii) African Union and League of Arab States; (iii) African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA), Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD), Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Members (PUOICM), South African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum; (iv) Socialist International; and (v) Amnesty International, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Human Rights Watch, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International IDEA, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), and Penal Reform International.

Of the 1,212 delegates who attended the Assembly, 607 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 40 presiding officers, 37 deputy presiding officers and 180 women (29.7%).

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

SATURDAY, 31 MARCH 2012

The Inaugural Ceremony opened at 8.10 p.m., with His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, in attendance.

Ms. REBECCA KADAGA, *Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda*, extended warm greetings to the delegates to the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

She thanked the IPU for placing its trust in the people of Uganda. The IPU, which had existed for over 120 years and was holding an Assembly for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa, had chosen to come to Uganda.

She thanked President Museveni for endowing the meeting with the requisite resources and for the time and effort he had personally invested in organizing it. She wished the delegates a pleasant stay and invited them to discover the breathtaking landscapes, blend of cultures, diverse peoples and flora and fauna of their country, the pearl of Africa. 2012 was a special year for Uganda as it marked 50 years of independence.

The IPU had chosen as the theme of the *Assembly Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap*. The Parliament of Uganda, which also faced that dilemma, had launched a programme to bring itself closer to citizens. It intended to conduct outreach activities to explain to citizens how the institution of parliament worked and together find solutions that it would propose to the government to overcome difficulties in each region. The media could also help to narrow that divide by broadcasting parliamentary proceedings. The Parliament of Uganda regularly posted on the Internet a newsletter summarizing parliamentary proceedings; it was also on Facebook and Twitter so that citizens could have an opportunity to post their comments and reactions.

It was in Kampala that the African Union Heads of State had launched the African Women's Decade. The lives of thousands of women and children depended on it.

Ms. Kadaga thanked the Government and all the ministries for helping to organize that meeting, as well as their sister Republic of Rwanda and the IPU. In conclusion, she wished all participants a pleasant stay and fruitful debates.

Mr. ZACHARY MUBURI-MUITA, *Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union*, brought greetings to the IPU Assembly on behalf of the UN Secretary-General. The theme of the general debate, "*Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap*", was very relevant given the waves of social protest that had marked 2011. Citizens expected of State institutions greater transparency, accountability and reactivity. Those protests translated a deep desire for the rule of law, democracy and social justice. Such expectations placed a great burden of accountability on parliamentarians. Citizens expected their voices to prompt the government to take action. The *Global Parliamentary Report*, produced in collaboration with UNDP, would soon be launched. It contained several messages, including the message that parliaments must be strong but also more transparent and accountable for their actions. The United Nations was counting on them to take up the challenges of the 21st century. Greater momentum was first needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). That was the IPU's intention. The Organization hoped that greater efforts would be made to apply the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. Climate change would also have to be tackled by setting priorities for mitigation and adaptation measures. By 2015, a general agreement must be reached by all the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Subsequently, new sustainable development targets would have to be set in order to meet needs in terms of energy, food and water. Lastly, greater emphasis must be placed on preventing conflict and natural disasters. Investment in early warning systems must be promoted,

and capacity must be built in the areas of human rights, humanitarian law and democratic values and practices. Resilience must be fortified through social protection and national risk mitigation plans.

The United Nations needed a strong partnership with national parliaments and the IPU. Parliamentarians must remind governments of their international commitments, translate them into domestic law and allocate funds for their implementation. Over the years, the United Nations and the IPU had forged closer ties but it was still possible to do more. The United Nations could make better use of the IPU's expertise to strengthen parliaments, in particular those in countries emerging from conflict or in transition. That would be the recommendation made by the UN Secretary-General when he presented his Report on cooperation between the two organizations that year. He welcomed that collaboration and wished the Assembly fruitful debates.

Mr. ABDELWAHAD RADI, *President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the President and people of Uganda for the warm welcome they had extended to delegates, who were all very privileged to spend some time in that lovely country. It was Winston Churchill who said: "... for magnificence, for variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life - plant, bird, insect, reptile, beast - for the vast scale ... Uganda is truly the pearl of Africa". He could not agree more and, once the Assembly completed its work, several delegates would no doubt extend their stay to discover the many attractions of that beautiful country.

He expressed his gratitude to the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament for inviting the IPU to hold its 126th Assembly in Kampala. As all delegates were well aware, the IPU was an organization that promoted the equal participation of men and women in politics and worked tirelessly to promote women's access to the highest political offices. Therefore, it gave the IPU a sense of great satisfaction to receive that invitation from the first woman Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament.

The IPU Assembly was taking place at a time when several African countries were facing major challenges in terms of peace, development and democracy, all topics that would be debated in Kampala. Special tribute should be paid to a number of African and Asian countries for the significant progress they had achieved in those areas. All agreed that democracy had been gaining ground and developing over time in Africa, in spite of certain exceptions that were quickly condemned by all.

Popular aspirations to liberty and democracy had brought about changes that had been unimaginable only years ago. Certain countries had embarked on the path to democracy and there was no turning back. That was the path that Uganda had taken. It had been able to rise again after a civil war and economic disaster. Today it was a peaceful, stable and more prosperous country. Women's rights had benefited from democratic reform, as was illustrated by the fact that women accounted for 35 per cent of the membership in parliament.

Delegates had come to Kampala to discuss ways of building trust between parliaments and citizens. That was a universal demand. Citizens were calling for democracy that was not only representative but also participatory. They wanted a sense of closeness. The theme of the Assembly could not be clearer: *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap*. Working with citizens was a daily reality for all parliamentarians. Serving the common interests of citizens, passing laws that improved their daily lives and reporting on choices made were the challenges they faced and the yardstick against which their actions would be assessed.

The First Standing Committee would be examining ways of Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa. What were the lessons to be drawn from the popular uprisings the world had witnessed over the past 12 months? First of all, that it was imperative to improve the economic situation and living standards of citizens and to adopt reforms based on their aspirations. Second, it must be recognized that good governance had a proven positive influence on the peace, security and stability of a nation.

The second topic for discussion was *Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas*. It begged the question: who set the international agendas? Too often, economic and financial institutions were not accountable and did not submit to any checks and balances. That situation could not continue without causing devastating consequences for humanity. The very foundations of current economic models had to be rethought, as well as the way economic activity was regulated.

Furthermore, it was natural for people to seek their own well-being and that of their children and grandchildren. People sought material well-being no doubt but also moral well-being based on a sense of security that emanated from respect for human rights and individual and collective dignity. The Arab Spring and the social malaise expressed by the Indignant Movement had demonstrated that those fundamental aspirations were not met everywhere; in fact, they were not in many cases. Serious thought should be given to how to change the system of governance and reform institutions where necessary. The authorities must be held to account for their actions. It was important to set up institutions that were able to respond positively to the expectations of citizens of the 21st century.

Perhaps the single most important thing to do to guarantee a better future for all was to invest in the health and education of children. He was pleased to see that the IPU would be discussing in Kampala the health of women and children, which, in Africa, was a question of life or death. The indicators for maternal and child health in a large number of countries were alarming. It was to be hoped that the information gathered in the days to come would prompt the countries concerned to take appropriate measures in order to address the challenge of improving the health of women and children.

During that week, delegates would also be discussing how to make the law work for the response to AIDS. Uganda was often cited as a model for Africa in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Dynamic governmental and parliamentary action and effective sensitization campaigns had made it possible to reduce the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Uganda was a world leader in initiatives aimed at eliminating new HIV infections among children.

The parliamentarians present had a lot to learn from each other and they all had a responsibility to help curb the spread of HIV. As members of parliament, one of their functions was to ensure that laws passed protected the rights of all persons. But beyond their law-making role, outside parliament they had an equally important role of raising awareness in their respective constituencies. That action allowed them to see whether or not the laws they passed made an impact. Legislation should promote rather than hamper HIV prevention, treatment, care and assistance. Laws passed should not discriminate against populations at risk.

Mr. Radi felt that he must touch on an appalling situation that saddened the whole world: Syria. The situation in that country had become increasingly untenable, heart-rending and worrying for the international community. A year had passed since the violence had erupted in that country, where citizens aspired to democratic reforms. The Syrian people, in spite of a brutal crackdown and thousands of deaths, continued to courageously demand liberty, dignity and justice. The situation had reached unbearable proportions. There had been no doubt that Syria would be a major topic of discussion at the Assembly. It was to be hoped that delegates would adopt a statement of sincere parliamentary support for the Syrian people and the realization of their legitimate aspirations.

But Syria was just one of many countries whose citizens were calling for reform and change, and who required assistance in keeping with the primary role of parliamentarians. That was their core function and their quintessential mission.

Mr. Radi said he was deeply concerned by the coup d'état that had occurred some days earlier in Mali. Regardless of what difficulties a country was experiencing, he stated unequivocally that resorting to a military coup was a reprehensible act, and one that the IPU strongly condemned. The IPU therefore called for the immediate restoration of the country's legitimate institutions.

On another note, the IPU saluted the consolidation of democracy in Senegal following the election of a new President. That election had taken place in an atmosphere of calm, transparency and respect for democratic standards.

The IPU spared no effort when it came to assisting the parliaments of countries emerging from conflict or in transition to more democratic forms of government. The Organization had thus aided the process of democratization in the new parliaments of Egypt and Tunisia. In the same vein, the IPU had recently been invited to set up a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the Parliament of Myanmar.

Two weeks previously, the IPU had dispatched an urgent mission to the Maldives to facilitate the negotiation of an accord among all political parties with a view to resolving through dialogue the crisis that had rocked the country.

After all, was dialogue not the one thing that parliamentarians best personified? It was precisely because the IPU was made up of members of parliament that it excelled in that area. Unlike any other international organization, it was able to provide to parliaments the kind of support they needed to better serve their constituents. The IPU's motto was: to serve, to serve and to serve.

In conclusion, Mr. Radi thanked the delegates for travelling in such large numbers from so far away to discharge their duty of better serving their fellow citizens, to express their solidarity with all those who suffered for one reason or another, and to support women and men who aspired to liberty, equality, justice and dignity to live as brothers and sisters. He wished all a productive and fruitful Assembly.

H.E. Mr. YOWERI MUSEVENI, *President of the Republic of Uganda*, on behalf of the Government and people of Uganda, welcomed the participants to the 126th IPU Assembly and thanked them for travelling such long distances in some cases to come to Kampala. He thanked the Vice-President and the Speaker of Parliament for inviting the IPU to a unique region of the world. Uganda was situated on the Equator but stood at between 1,150 and 1,320 metres above sea level. Certain regions of the country reached altitudes of up to 5,000 metres, and were snow-capped all year round. There was no need, therefore, for air conditioning; that would be wasteful since cool air was available at no cost.

The role of parliament in democracies was an age-old question. Democracy had in fact been practised in primitive societies that had established a form of equality among its members. They needed only to be old enough and in good health to have a say and vote. Direct democracy had been practised in olden days, when people used to decide for themselves, without delegating power. That was how the Khoisan people in South Africa used to take decisions, by majority vote, about questions that were important to the community. That was taken up later in the city-states of Ancient Greece through the Greek notion of democracy.

That was followed by the modern form of democracy - representative democracy - where decisions were taken by representatives chosen for a determined period. In Uganda, the President was at the head of the executive, the parliament managed the affairs of the State on behalf of the people for a five-year term and was answerable to the people at the end of that period. The Constitution was simple: the President and the Parliament must complete their term of office. The judiciary must guarantee respect for the Constitution and serve justice for citizens through its decisions and rulings. Lastly, the people must intervene directly through referendums. The Constitution thus recognized all forms of democracy: presidential, direct and parliamentary. It also provided a space for special interest groups such as youth, women, disabled persons, workers and military personnel.

Democracy gave power to the people, *demos* in Greek. The notion of direct democracy had come about in the 6th century BC in Greece, but one would have to wait until the end of the Middle Ages for an embryonic form of parliamentary democracy to come about. That form had been developed during the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the American Civil War and with the *Magna Carta*, drawn up by English barons as early as 1215. Parliament's duty was to

talk, not shout. The first parliament appeared in England but it was only with the French Revolution of 1848 that full representation of the people through universal suffrage was achieved. New Zealand would add the finishing touches to the process by giving women the vote in 1893.

However, the crisis in the 1920s would lead to disappointment and disillusion. Strong governments and dictatorships were established to the detriment of democracy. Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union rose in power and it was the latter's economic growth that plunged Germany into a war to conquer its *Lebensraum*, not to mention its ambitions about the superiority of the Aryan race. Where did things stand today following the tremors of war? India, with a population of 1 billion inhabitants, was a free country that had combined strong growth with democracy, prosperity and freedom of political expression. China was experiencing astronomical growth with a political system led by the Communist Party, which showed that no matter what, without growth there could be no socio-economic change. To borrow an image close to India, the cow was revered for its milk not for the animal itself. The same was true for democracy.

Uganda had wasted time on internal tensions linked to the dictatorship. Yet once stability was restored, the country's GDP had recorded strong growth in spite of insufficient foreign aid. Taxation had been improved, and revenue from that source was used to fund infrastructure, roads, energy and scientific research and development. That was how the road to necessary socio-economic changes had been paved. Without growth, democracy would not survive.

Following the difficulties of the 1960s, the country had been able to identify the strategic directions of change: private sector growth and free enterprise, which allowed it to reach a growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in spite of bottlenecks, develop its infrastructure – rail and road, and enhance its human resources through training, health, and schooling for all.

Natural resources should not be overexploited. When Uganda used to export coffee at US\$ 1 a kilo, it was being sold in London for \$ 15. That was doing the United Kingdom a favour and enabling it to create jobs for its own citizens.

Growth should, nevertheless, focus on export in order to capture new foreign markets. However, regional integration expanded the local market and gave countries greater weight in international trade negotiations.

Thanks to democracy, citizens were able to choose their leaders and the programme they preferred. They could not help but joining with the President of the IPU in condemning the coup d'état in Mali. Those young soldiers should return to their barracks and let the people decide about their future. Last but not least, national sovereignty and independence must be preserved in the interest of the nation.

Among all the countries represented through their parliaments at the IPU, some had experienced socio-economic change before or after the Second World War; others such as Uganda were still on that path. The transformation was total: moving from a feudal and peasant society to a middle class society with an educated labour force. Social change went hand in hand with economic change. For the first time in history, humanity seemed to be moving towards universal prosperity. In earlier times, development had been very unbalanced, with certain regions living in opulence while others had been doomed to a life of poverty. For some time now, millions of Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and Indonesians had risen out of poverty, which had spurred demand for certain products. For example, a tonne of steel, which had been worth US\$ 200 20 years previously was worth \$ 1,000 today and foreign investors who had looked down on Ugandan iron ore were now rushing to exploit it. That was good news for the country but societies that had formerly preyed on others for their own survival should learn to adapt.

Because it was dangerous to depend exclusively on raw materials, Uganda intended to develop an autonomous economy. Globally, production and consumption patterns would have to change. One family did not need several cars. Countries would be better off providing efficient public transport.

The theme of the Assembly was *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap*. Parliamentarians had the means to support socio-economic change, without which nothing was possible. As described in the Bible, one could tell a tree by its fruit: it was by transforming people's quality of life that the chasm would be narrowed. In Uganda, where 68 per cent of the population was employed in the agricultural sector, it was important to become self-sufficient, develop energy production, and attract foreign investors so that new jobs could be created for locals. Who created wealth? Government? Parliament? No. So parliament and government had to do everything in their power to convince those investors, who were free to make their own decisions, to set up their business there.

The President of Uganda thanked all the delegates and declared the 126th IPU Assembly open.

The Inaugural Ceremony closed at 9.25 p.m.

SITTING
OF SUNDAY, 1 APRIL 2012
MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 10.15 a.m. with Mr. A. Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

Item 1 of the agenda

**Election of the President and Vice-Presidents
of the 126th Assembly**

The PRESIDENT welcomed the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Ms. Rebecca Kadaga.

Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga (Uganda) was elected President of the Assembly by acclamation and took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT welcomed the President of the IPU, the Secretary General and delegates to Kampala. She thanked them for the honour and the opportunity to chair the meeting. She gave an overview of how the debate would be conducted and invited Mr. Mark to take the floor.

Item 3 of the agenda

**General debate on the overall theme of
Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap**

Mr. D. MARK (Nigeria) congratulated the IPU on its excellent organization of the Assembly and thanked the Ugandan hosts for the warm welcome they had been extended. He gave an overview of the parliamentary system in Nigeria. He explained that pressure on parliamentarians was increasing. Parliamentarians were close to the people. They wanted more from the government and were increasingly willing to participate in the democratic process. However, there were constraints on parliamentary oversight, in particular funding. He believed that parliaments must focus their efforts on transparency, justice and fairness. They should represent the people. He spoke of the growing role of women in the Parliament of Nigeria. That year, there were more women ministers than ever before.

He condemned the coup d'état in Mali but said he was pleased that recent free elections in Senegal had taken place. Nigeria had sent observers to monitor those elections.

For parliaments to bridge the gap with citizens it was necessary to encourage a participative civil society based on tolerance and freedom of expression. At the same time, parliaments should be confident and assertive when holding governments to account.

He suggested that the IPU produce a model bill, which would have the twin aims of encouraging women to participate in democracy and tackle poverty. That would strengthen the democratic process substantially.

Both the Nigerian Government and Parliament were working hard to reduce the gap between the people and those that governed them. Those efforts would continue into the future.

Mr. D.H. OLIVER (Canada) said that he was honoured to speak on that very important topic. It was a great honour for all parliamentarians to serve their constituents. That honour carried great trust, and it was necessary to set aside individual private interests for the interests of the public. However, it was a fact that worldwide parliamentarians were less trusted than other State officials, including the police and the judiciary.

To bridge the gap between citizens and parliamentarians, democracy must be promoted. One way of achieving that was by improving communication with citizens through more transparency and ensuring that parliaments were more representative of the citizens they served.

Since 1867, Canada had benefited greatly from immigration; practically all races were represented in Canada's major cities. On the whole, Canada was a tolerant and diverse society and that had made it a vibrant and open country.

However, parliamentarians must ensure that they represented all gender, language, religion and ethnic interests as all citizens should be able to express themselves. Similarly, parliaments must publish voting records and minutes of decisions in as accessible a way as possible. That should include greater use of social media. At the same time, the use of social media would help the flow of communication between parliaments and citizens, particularly younger people.

The level of dissatisfaction with the democratic process in many countries was a result of citizens being ill-informed of the work of parliamentarians. That was largely the fault of politicians, who had become, in the words of the Aga Khan, complacent about educating citizens about their work. According to the Aga Khan, the lack of will to address the democratic deficit had led in many instances to factionalism and subservience.

Winston Churchill had once described democracy as the least worst system of government. It was vital that democracies were continually renewed if they were to survive and prosper into the future.

Mr. P. SLIPPER (Australia) said that parliamentarians must engage in a meaningful way with citizens. When he had become Speaker of the Federal Parliament, he had resigned his party affiliation. That had helped him discharge his duties independently without any pressure from political parties. As Speaker, he had received piles of correspondence from citizens who were concerned at the poor conduct of members of parliament. It was his view that such behaviour indicated poor leadership of political parties and contributed greatly to the lack of faith in political leaders.

In Australia, citizens' approval of politicians was expressed every three years in federal elections. However, general elections were largely an expression of satisfaction with governments rather than individual members. In 2010, a minority government had been formed in Australia, the first in 70 years. Some argued that that reflected dissatisfaction with the status quo. What was unarguable was that there was more interest in government than at any time in recent history. The minority government had led to a new style of politics because it had necessitated collaboration with small parties and independent members. In addition, parliament had changed its procedures so that it sat for longer and more frequently and allowed for more debates on topical issues.

There was now greater opportunity for back bench-sponsored business to be debated. Question time of ministers had also been reformed. Ministers were now questioned in the chamber. Time limits had been placed on the length of questions and responses by ministers. It was hoped that those new procedures would make parliament more relevant. Question time was the most watched and listened to procedure in parliament and it was important that it remained relevant to the concerns of people.

Further reforms of the support and services given to parliamentarians in their scrutiny of public bills and the proposed introduction of a code of conduct for members of parliament would also help bridge the gap between parliamentarians and citizens. Similarly, that would make governments more transparent and accountable. Parliament and government should always be open to changes in the way they worked and made themselves accountable to citizens.

In more than 20 years in Parliament, he had enjoyed engaging with young people in the parliamentary education office in Parliament House and classrooms around the country. He was privileged to join fellow parliamentarians in Kampala to share experiences.

Mr. M.S. EL-KATATNY (Egypt) said how pleased he was to be there today for the first time as Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt, just about a year after the revolution. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for being given the first slot to speak in the name of the Egyptian revolution. He appreciated the support of IPU Member Parliaments in maintaining Egypt's IPU membership. He thanked the IPU for its continued unfailing support for the people of Egypt and particularly for its insistence on retaining Egypt as the venue for International Day of Democracy celebrations in 2011 although, for obvious reasons, they had not taken place. Both chambers of the Egyptian Parliament had received support from the IPU and its Secretary General, Mr. Anders Johnsson, had attended the opening session of the new parliament. There were now democratically-elected members in both chambers returned through free and fair elections. The Egyptian Parliament would remain an active Member of the IPU and serve all people. Good democratic practice called for preconditions: in particular, parliaments must reflect the aspirations of their constituents and translate them into legislation and policies. It was necessary to raise the awareness of parliaments and encourage them to engage with civil society. Parliamentarians should be true representatives of their constituents and a mirror of society. Parliaments must be open and based on transparency and consultation. The absence of those elements left room only for dictatorship. History had shown that those factors had been absent until the people prevailed and took their destiny into their own hands. 2011 had seen radical changes in the Arab world, with the violation of rights and freedoms being rejected, corruption challenged and the absence of democratic practices addressed. Violations during the 2010 Egyptian parliamentary elections had been the driving force behind the revolution. There had also been movements in the oldest democracies in the West, for example the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York, which had spread to other US cities and around the world. Those movements reflected the gap between parliaments and their citizens even in democratic countries. There was a lack of confidence in the democratic modus operandi in many systems, which meant there was a need to reform electoral systems and parliamentary practice. He commended recent IPU resolutions on the financing of political parties and campaigns and on preventing electoral violence and promoting the smooth transition of power. He hoped that their recommendations would be implemented in order to restore citizens' trust in parliaments. Parliaments must be made more open through legislation, policies and proper rules and regulations. Improved access and the effective use of modern technology were also important. The IPU reflected the will of peoples in a neutral and effective way, free from political pressure. The People's Assembly wanted to cooperate closely with the IPU to implement its resolutions and decisions. He wished the Organization every success in its work.

The PRESIDENT reminded the delegates of the eight-minute speaking limit and asked them to observe the green, yellow and red lights.

Mr. M.A. AL MURR (United Arab Emirates) thanked Uganda for organizing the 126th IPU Assembly. There had been many recent changes on the international scene, with instability and conflict around the world. The UN Security Council had not played its part on the international arena. There were many political and economic dangers, recession had had a negative impact, and there was a serious food crisis. The process of globalization had gone hand in hand with the globalization of wider problems: climate change, the environment, economic crises, health issues and piracy. Those problems knew no borders. Solutions needed to be found through democratic institutions and parliamentary cooperation. He referred to the Nuclear Security Summit and reaffirmed the need to guarantee world reserves of nuclear material for peaceful purposes. At the same time, it was necessary to stop fissile material falling into the hands of terrorist groups. It was

essential to put an end to the production of nuclear weapons, including in Israel. All UN resolutions should be applied to Israel. He endorsed the enquiries into the situation in the Occupied Territories. He noted that Israel had said that it would not implement the relevant UN resolutions, which meant that the United Nations was unable to fulfil its role. Israel had placed itself on the sidelines of the international community.

There were also important matters to address in relation to the international financial system, and the Bretton Woods institutions needed to be revisited. There needed to be a better system for the world with a fairer distribution of wealth. Many countries were deeply indebted, and he called for true cooperation between developing and developed countries.

Parliaments could not necessarily reflect the will of the people. Parliaments had to do their utmost on development issues at all levels. They had to address people's concerns such as jobs, food security and energy. They had to increase their contacts with the people. They should act as a relay between the government and citizens. His delegation had submitted an emergency item on Syria seeking to address the exodus of the Syrian people. Regarding Syria, international law and support for the victims should be top priorities.

Mr. D. DEMBEREL (Mongolia) said that he was grateful to the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament and the people of Uganda for their warm welcome. The need to bridge the gap between parliament and the people was pressing. As parliamentarians, their duty was to serve their people. There was a need to be closer to voters. Parliaments had not won the full support of the public. He argued that openness was very important. People wanted to see and monitor everything. In the Mongolian Parliament, debates were now open and it had established a parliamentary television channel and a parliamentary website. Twenty pieces of legislation enabled the public to request information from the government. But more than laws was needed. A civil hall and open sessions in parliament had been established to take public opinion. Voting was very important although elections in Mongolia had been criticized. The system had been reformed recently to enhance the accountability of candidates. Confidence in the parliamentary process was aided by parliamentarians meeting with their constituents. Urbanization and democratic changes had led to a range of problems. Wealth distribution was important in addressing inequality. In Mongolia there was a long tradition of statehood and a very defined culture. Natural resource profits had led to difficulties between local people and multinational corporations. Global economic upheavals had had a negative impact on the poor. Parliament's reputation depended on its ability to monitor and tackle those issues.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) said that there was uncertainty around the world because of the global economic downturn. Climate change and the gap between rich and poor were other examples of the difficulties of working in a globalized world. Amnesty International and the World Bank warned of a human catastrophe in the poorest countries if those crises were not dealt with. Internationally, there needed to be support for dialogue and a fast response to crises to protect the most vulnerable. South Africa was not immune to the international economic crisis. It was seeking to eliminate inequality over the next two decades, but that would require a different growth path. People should shape their own destiny. He believed that the IPU helped parliamentarians to be more effective in delivering on parliaments' promises. There would have to be reform of legislatures and enhanced accountability and oversight. Oversight was required to restore faith in parliaments. The public's voice needed to be heard and the poor needed to be given a voice. He was concerned that modernizing legislatures would lead to a lack of resources in comparison to the executive. Working more with academics, civil society and other groups could help to narrow that gap. Parliaments also had to stand together. It was in the long-term interest of the world to deliver more equality and develop common solutions to global challenges. In particular, work should focus on improving transparency and meeting developed countries' funding commitments for development. He believed that HIV/AIDS, climate change and food security could not be addressed otherwise. In addition, the private sector had an important role to

play in addressing those global challenges, some of which they contributed to. It had been 20 years since the first Rio Summit. He called for new sustainable development goals and a joining of sustainable development and economic policies.

Mr. T. MEEPIEN (Thailand) said that recent flooding in Thailand had resulted in hundreds of deaths and the livelihoods of millions of people had been badly affected. Tens of thousands of kilometres of farmland had been flooded and consequently, there had been great shortages of food supplies. The World Bank had estimated that there had been US\$ 45.7 billion of damage to the Thai economy. However, there had been some good news recently. Industrial production had largely resumed and Thailand had worked to increase confidence in its economic system. The priority of the government had been to provide assistance to local small and medium-sized enterprises. The government had also worked hard to instil confidence in foreign direct investors and to state unreservedly that Thailand was again open for business.

The world faced significant challenges. There were grave concerns about nuclear proliferation, world trade talks had not progressed as expected and there was insecurity in many regions of the world. In economic terms, Europe was facing a major financial crisis. The world had also witnessed a shift in economic power from the northern hemisphere to the South and particularly to the East. That development posed a significant challenge to international organizations. Global governance must be improved and all countries must be brought into the global family. That would necessitate reform of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank. There should be a devolution and redistribution of power and decision-making that would reflect the shift in global economic power.

In Thailand, the Government had begun to implement measures to enhance democracy and promote national reconciliation. Thailand welcomed recent moves by the Government in Myanmar to improve democratic processes. It was clear that representative democracy necessitated an equal say of citizens in decision-making. That was true both for Thailand and for Myanmar. Efforts had been made to improve communication between the people, Parliament and Government. Both traditional and new media were key to informing and educating citizens. The Thai Parliament had recently invested significant efforts in communicating better and more transparently with citizens. It was hoped that would result in greater participation, particularly by young people, in the democratic process, which in turn would result in making the Government more accountable.

Mr. K. GHELLAB (Morocco) thanked the Ugandan hosts for their warm and typically African hospitality, which allowed each and every delegate to feel at home. He also thanked the President and Secretary General of the IPU for their efforts to facilitate the work of delegates.

All parliamentarians were proud to see democratic values and good practices develop throughout the world. Parliaments existed to promote peace and cooperation between nations. That mission was particularly important for countries in transition to democracy.

The overall theme of *Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap* was very significant and encompassed social and economic aspects. The IPU should give recent experiments with democracy all the importance they deserved. To truly promote democracy, financial resources would have to be mobilized. That was indispensable to allow parliaments to fulfil their mission in a transparent manner for the general interest.

Just months after being elected, he had realized that parliamentary reform would require financial resources. He appealed to all financial institutions concerned so that democracy would find all the funds it needed to defend human rights and guarantee fundamental freedoms. The need to lend support to parliaments could be conveyed by the IPU, which could also provide legal, administrative and technical assistance.

Morocco had always endeavoured to take pattern from thriving democracies and best practices. That is why it had never ceased to implement reforms. It was only by widely adopting best practices that the gap between parliaments and people could be narrowed. The proceedings

of the Moroccan Parliament were rebroadcast on the radio, television and the Internet. The parliament welcomed visitors, particularly primary and secondary school students. After all, it was never too early to inculcate democratic principles. The parliament also invited university undergraduates, experts and lecturers to attend its sessions when the debate focused on a relevant topic. Furthermore, a national dialogue had been established between trade unions, political parties, experts and journalists on good practices in information and communication. In short, Moroccan members of parliament did their utmost to make their parliament better known and more visible and bring it closer to citizens.

Mr. V. MATEU (Andorra) thanked the Parliament of Uganda and its Speaker for their warm welcome.

The public had a general feeling of uncertainty; it sensed that something was wrong. Men and women parliamentarians must work tirelessly to ensure that such uncertainty did not turn into fear. Politicians were not viewed in a positive light. Citizens accused them of not solving their problems and some even accused them of creating those problems in the first place. The lack of trust in elected officials cast doubt on the parliamentary system. Politicians should seek to understand the reasons underlying that breakdown. Society needed more democracy and politicians must make it constructive, useful and innovative. In western Europe, the system had been brought into question because it was a source of disappointment. Therefore, it should be strengthened rather than destroyed. A number of countries, including Andorra, were experiencing a severe financial and economic crisis, which explained the doubts that prevailed. Politicians should keep citizens informed and respond with concrete actions in order to restore the legitimacy of institutions and parliamentarians. They should do everything in their power to meet citizens' expectations and be accountable to them. The democratic deficit had recently given rise to social movements across the world as people demanded change. What citizens demanded was more representative institutions, more decisions that improved their day-to-day life, more reactivity and participation, more information and less publicity, more clarity, more scrutiny of government, more authority and ethics among leaders and more transparency and integrity in the management of public funds. Politicians needed to conduct a self-assessment, listen to their constituents, and redouble their efforts because governing entailed more than leading; it also involved knowing how to mobilize by offering prospects and obtaining results. Politicians should assess their work objectively and weigh up the consequences of their decisions in the short, medium and long term. Oversight, transparency, ethics: those were the overarching themes running through the report of the First Standing Committee. Independent bodies were needed to hold the government to scrutiny. Such mechanisms already existed, such as the ombudsman, the national audit office and the department for the protection of personal data, but citizens were still calling for greater oversight. That was where parliamentary committees came in.

Politicians were not free to do as they pleased; they were judged on how well they delivered on election promises and on the quality of their programmes. Dialogue was central. Politicians should consider themselves as simple citizens. After all, parliamentarians and citizens were not so different; parliamentarians were citizens in the service of others who should show that they were dynamic and committed.

Ms. M. KUMAR (India) expressed her deep appreciation on behalf of her delegation to the Parliament, Government and people of Uganda for their warm and generous hospitality. She also congratulated them on the golden jubilee of Uganda's independence. She firmly believed that parliamentary engagement with the people was the lifeline of the democratic system. Parliamentarians in India reflected the aspirations of the country's one billion plus people through 39 parties in the Lok Sabha. It was incumbent upon all parliamentarians to consolidate citizens' trust in parliament. The Indian Parliament had devised several mechanisms to get closer to the people: for example attention notices, half-hour discussions and question hour. There were also a number of constitutional bodies and statutory commissions which citizens could approach with

their grievances. She outlined the committee system of the Indian Parliament, which included 51 committees, of which 11 were joint committees. Those committees were important in forging closer ties with the people and effectively scrutinizing government action. There were also six parliamentary forums on a range of important issues. The Right To Information Act 2005 had been a milestone in building trust in democratic institutions. Parliament also disseminated a large volume of information through its website. The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training organized programmes for stakeholders and there was a well-received internship programme for young people. The Indian Parliament owned a 24-hour television channel, which aired proceedings of both Houses, allowing constituents to see their representatives at work. The channel also carried a number of factual and informative programmes. The Speaker took a particular interest in outreach, for example by answering questions posed by school children and issuing invitations to educational institutions to visit parliament. There was also a museum and a children's corner in the library. Lastly, she said that a press advisory committee had been established as part of the outreach programme.

Mr. A. ALSHEIKH (Saudi Arabia) congratulated the President of the Assembly on her election and expressed his confidence that she would lead a successful Assembly. He thanked the Parliament, people and Government of Uganda for hosting the Assembly and for their warm hospitality. It was necessary for parliamentarians to strengthen their efforts within the IPU to tackle international issues: it was a true sign of maturity to pool resources to further the interests of all towards peace, security and human rights. The world was experiencing difficult times and there was no dearth of economic, social and political issues to tackle. Saudi Arabia was not immune to those events and had tried to prevent some economic crises and the spreading of regional instability with proposals through regional and Islamic bodies. In particular, there had been various initiatives to heal the wounds of the Palestinian people and to establish an independent Palestinian State. Any solution must be based on justice and respect for the Palestinian people. The situation in Syria was unacceptable and again Saudi Arabia had put forward several initiatives to end the violence. He called upon the authorities in Syria to rely on wisdom and logic to stop the blood-letting. Life was a gift from God and could not be forfeited by any mortal. There should be continued cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations.

Islam was a religion of moderation. There were many problems, including the economic downturn and drugs but those problems were not caused by religion. The King Abdul Aziz Centre had been established to facilitate international dialogue and to promote human dignity. Parliamentarians' role was to safeguard the well-being of society.

Open debate

Open debate with Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF and Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The PRESIDENT outlined the modalities of the afternoon session and invited Mr. Anthony Lake to take the floor.

Mr. A. LAKE, *Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*, expressed his gratitude and honour for the invitation to address the Assembly. UNICEF had worked with the IPU for two decades. Together they had produced results for children. More children than ever before had protected rights, clean drinking water, greater protection against disease, and education. However, there were millions of children still in need of help and he was glad to see that global health issues were on the Assembly's agenda. However, there was one global health issue that many delegates were unaware of: stunting. It was one of the greatest inequalities of the time, but many had never heard of it. A devastating but addressable problem, it could be dealt with at a low cost. Poor nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life caused increased vulnerability to disease, diminished cognitive capacity and overall stunted growth. Poor

nutrition led to the relative loss of two to three years of learning, and later on to a 22 per cent reduction in economic capacity: 180 million children had that condition. He believed that it was a global emergency, and represented a huge inequality for children. In six countries, 50 per cent of children under five years of age were stunted. He stressed that stunting also occurred in developed and food-secure countries. Sometimes stunting was mistaken for genetic deficiencies. Failure to address the problem had led to it being passed down from stunted mothers to their children. The condition also had long-term economic implications. It could cause a 2 to 3 per cent loss in gross domestic product (GDP) on issues such as health care spending. There was a body of sound evidence to show that addressing malnutrition was very cost effective. It also increased the success of other policies such as education and health. In Chad, children were now dying of malnutrition. There was an urgent need to help the Sahel countries. While donor countries were insisting on greater value for money and recipient countries were struggling with reduced budgets, addressing stunting could be an effective measure. It simply required vitamins and basic nutrition costing between US\$ 15 and 20 per child. The investment lasted a lifetime. He pointed out that the Copenhagen Consensus had identified nutrition as the number one way to enhance global welfare above all other policy options.

He said that if the world acted now it could safeguard the future of millions of children. For those children currently facing malnutrition, the United Nations had formed a coalition which included governments, international bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), all of which were committed to combating malnutrition. It was not a top down movement. It was instead an attempt to coordinate existing programmes intended to combat malnutrition and to help governments realize that aim. Twenty-seven countries had signed up to the United Nations coalition and had already taken steps to address malnutrition. As parliamentarians, delegates were in a pivotal position to influence policy, budgets and to hold governments to account for their decisions.

In conclusion, the United Nations remained committed to the MDGs. The world, by 2015, must be rid of poverty and injustice. There was nothing more cruel than sentencing a child in the womb to a life of malnutrition and poverty. The world currently had a golden opportunity to improve the lives of women and children. The issue of malnutrition had finally been brought out of the shadows and brought to the attention of the world.

Mr. B. OSOTIMEHIN, *Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*, said that it was a great honour to participate in the IPU discussion of global malnutrition. Mr. Lake had previously highlighted that good nutrition was key to a person's social and economic development. Good nutrition was also a key investment in a person's well-being. It was now a well-established fact that a child's formative months and years depended on the health of its mother.

Together, UNICEF and UNFPA had recently launched the Commission on Life-saving Commodities for Women and Children, aimed at improving maternal and child health. That effort was critical. Only with the support of stakeholders, including NGOs, governments and individual members of parliament would momentum on combating malnutrition among children be sustained. Delegates had a responsibility to hold their governments to account for their progress in removing barriers to greater equality between all people in society.

The provision of education and health care services to girls was not only important in its own right but was key to economic progress. The world's population had recently reached 7 billion people. However, there remained great inequality in the world. Movements including the Arab Spring and the Wall Street Occupy movement showed that people around the world demanded change to the economic and political landscape. That sentiment ran particularly high among the youth of the world. Currently, 1.8 billion of the world's population was aged between 10 and 24. Of that figure, nine out of 10 lived in the developing world and half were girls. That generation represented great potential for the realization of social and economic progress.

All children must have a healthy start in life. Governments must focus their attention particularly on improving the life chances of girls. Too often, girls were married at too young an

age. Too often, girls gave birth too young. In addition, girls frequently faced violence and discrimination in their lives. Empowerment should be underpinned by sex education and health care advice. Currently, 1,000 women died in childbirth every day. UNFPA estimated that 250 million women lacked access to family planning services. Better sex education would result in better lives for hundreds of millions of girls.

In June 2012, there would be a conference in Rio de Janeiro aimed at committing to sustainability. Environmental sustainability was clearly key to the future of the world. However, it was equally important to promote gender equality, health services and education for all of the world's population. The Rio Conference must reaffirm the principle of universal access to sex education and health services. In addition, there would be a UNFPA conference on family planning held in London shortly before the Olympic Games opened.

Governments must increase investment in the young, particularly in their health, education and job opportunities. Investment in the futures of young girls would promote economic progress and reduce poverty. Similarly, health education and access to contraception would slow population growth and ultimately reduce economic inequality.

In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, 179 leaders had committed to placing human dignity at the heart of government policy. Nearing the 20th anniversary of the Cairo Conference and the 2015 deadline for the MDGs represented an opportunity for the world to renew the central mission of the Cairo Conference and to put the rights of girls and women at its core.

Progress in reducing child mortality had been patchy and slow, and in some cases non-existent. Not only were there stark differences between countries, but there had been significant disparities in progress towards reducing child mortality within countries. It was the child born into poverty who suffered most.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to strengthen laws, increase budgets and target investment in the right areas as they promoted equality for women and children. Ultimately, UNFPA was committed to a world where every pregnancy was wanted, childbirth was safe and the potential of every individual child was fulfilled.

THE PRESIDENT thanked the speakers for reminding the Assembly of their responsibility to invest in young people and maternal health. There would be 15 minutes for questions.

Mrs. D. AZIZ (Pakistan) noted that countries in the Islamic world had high fertility rates coupled with very young populations. She asked what plans UNFPA had to promote reproductive health standards and information, particularly among the adolescent populations in Islamic countries. She also asked how UNFPA would take forward partnerships with parliamentarians who could play a significant role in influencing their citizens on reproductive health issues.

Mr. J.D. NTAWUKULIRYAYO (Rwanda) thanked the speakers for their presentations and asked how UNICEF and UNFPA worked together to promote family planning and sexual health.

Ms. A. KABORÉ-KOALA (Burkina Faso) asked Mr. B. Osotimehin what UNFPA did in cases where subsidies were not used up in their entirety. She recognized that UNICEF intervened in countries in economic difficulty that were experiencing a food crisis owing to war or poor harvests. But beyond that, there were 180 million children who suffered from endemic malnutrition. To what extent should UNICEF not adopt a general policy aimed at preventing famine.

Mr. B. OSOTIMEHIN, *Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*, in response to the first question, noted that UNFPA worked in the field in 114 countries, including almost every developing and Islamic country. There were good partnerships in many Islamic

countries: one of the best population programmes existed in Iran. There were relations with parliamentary groups in all parts of the world, which included advocating policies and programmes on women's health and reproductive health. UNFPA wanted to develop stronger ties with the IPU.

In response to the second question, he emphasized that UNFPA worked very closely with UNICEF as part of the Health 4+, which was composed of five international bodies working together in a complementary fashion. He also referred to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, launched in 2010 by the UN Secretary-General.

In response to the third question, he noted that a new facility relating to underutilized drugs had just started.

Mr. A. LAKE, *Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*, agreed that the work of UNFPA and UNICEF was complementary. He added that another important factor was providing girls with an education. There were funds to support the provision of supplies in the health field, but for many commodities such as nutrients and medicines for the safety of mothers, there was no way of controlling prices or of stimulating demand. The new Commodities Commission would be established for six months and would advise on how prices could be reduced and demand increased. He went on to explain that 180 million children were stunted. Twenty million children suffered from acute malnutrition, which meant they were in imminent danger of dying. UNICEF worked on endemic malnutrition but also with children who were undernourished. It was in the interest of society to build the nutritional status of children, which increased resilience in the event of natural disasters. Lastly, he noted that investment in health and education was not only a humanitarian obligation but also a means of contributing to economic growth.

The PRESIDENT thanked the speakers and welcomed the assurance that today would mark the start of a long relationship between the IPU and UNFPA and UNICEF.

The sitting rose at 1 p.m.

SITTING

OF SUNDAY, 1 APRIL 2012

AFTERNOON

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. with Ms. R. Kadaga, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on the overall theme of Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap

Resumption of the debate

Mr. L. MOYO (Zimbabwe) said that there needed to be a symbiotic relationship between parliaments and the people. It was a myth that parliament was distant from the people. However, it was important that individual members of parliaments reached out to their constituents to identify their concerns. Parliamentarians also had an important oversight role. The public had to

feel that they could make a difference. It was important that citizens made informed choices about their representatives, which could be facilitated by parliamentarians developing closer relationships with their constituents. Parliamentary reforms introduced in Zimbabwe in 1999 had led to the opening of parliament to the public. Committees were created to shadow government departments, and the public could attend committee meetings. Committees also collected public views on a range of issues and reported back to parliament. The use of the Internet to distribute information about parliament and legislation was important in raising awareness among the public but that was hindered by a lack of infrastructure.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that he was grateful to the IPU for the opportunity to address delegates on that important matter. The gap between parliamentarians and the people existed because the majority of citizens were not sufficiently aware of the role of parliament. A key reason for that was the failure of parliamentarians to consult their electorate frequently enough or in sufficiently clear terms. It was not uncommon in Zambia for members of parliament, after they had been elected, to ignore their constituents until the next time they sought re-election. Many parliamentarians confined themselves to parliamentary business only and consequently lost touch with those who elected them. As a result, parliamentarians regularly failed to communicate government policy or to explain to and educate citizens about the parliamentary process.

In 1991, Zambia had returned to a multiparty democracy. Since then, the Zambian Parliament had taken a number of initiatives to enhance public participation in the democratic process. First, bills had been committed to portfolio committees after they had received a first reading in parliament. Second, the Estimates Committee, which scrutinized the national budget, had been strengthened by the inclusion of chairs of portfolio committees. Third, offices had been established in all 150 constituencies in Zambia. Fourth, a media and visitor centre had been established within Parliament's complex, which had increased the flow of information from parliament to citizens. Fifth, every Friday when Parliament was sitting, the Vice-President was questioned by parliamentarians for 50 minutes. Sixth, parliamentary debates were now televised and broadcast on the radio. Seventh, a parliamentary website enabled the public to put questions to parliamentarians directly. Eighth, the dress code for visitors to Parliament had been relaxed and the number of visitors had grown significantly as a result. Lastly, parliamentarians made regular field visits and held public hearings on the government's policies. That practice had enabled parliamentarians to collect the views of people on a range of economic and social issues.

Reforms would continue alongside reviews aimed at assessing their effectiveness and relevance. Parliamentarians must always strive to remain close to the people. Only by doing that would a bridge between parliamentarians and the people be built.

Mr. J.M. Katupha (Mozambique), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. Md. A. HAMID (Bangladesh) said that he was very proud to address the IPU Assembly.

The IPU had long been committed to parliamentary democracy and had built an informed parliamentary community which reflected that. It was important to reiterate the role of parliaments in any functioning democracy. When they worked well, parliaments met the demands and expectations of citizens.

Parliamentarians must hold the executive and its supporting bureaucracy to account for its policies and actions. At the same time, they must be responsive to people's needs. It was vital that parliament was a platform for people to express their views irrespective of their race, creed or gender. Parliamentarians must uphold the rights of all persons in society. Individual parliamentarians must at all times display the virtues of integrity and honesty of purpose.

Climate change was the most pressing problem facing the world. Parliamentarians from across the world must work together to influence their governments to address that problem. From 14 to 16 March 2012, Bangladesh had hosted a conference of parliamentarians aimed at

identifying effective solutions to climate change. The conference had heard directly from individuals affected by climate change and had listened to their suggestions for policies to mitigate it. The conference had been a success largely because it had put the interests of people at the forefront of discussions.

Although climate change was the most pressing problem facing the world, parliamentarians could also work together on other issues, including malnutrition, water supply and natural disasters. Organizations such as the IPU and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would be pivotal in helping formulate solutions to those problems.

Mr. A AL-SAADOUN (Kuwait) thanked the Government and the people of Uganda, and the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament for hosting the Assembly. He hoped that the Assembly would reach positive conclusions for the benefit for all people. There were many crises and challenges around the world and strong international will was needed to tackle the armed conflicts that threatened peace and security. There was no doubt that parliamentarians and parliaments had a central role to play at the regional and national levels, and that the work of the United Nations should complement that of the IPU. In the Middle East the key problem was the Zionist regime bombing houses and Palestinian territories. Those were crimes against humanity, which amounted to State terrorism being committed before the eyes of the world. International efforts to end the conflict had failed. The Middle East Quartet had not been serious about dealing with the conflict and had proved biased towards the Zionist occupation. He was hopeful that Arab efforts to achieve reconciliation between the different Palestinian factions would bear fruit, leading to a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. Another hot spot was Syria, where Syrian forces were burning land and destroying houses and hospitals. The IPU needed to take a clear stance on that conflict and seek a cessation of the violence in order to achieve a transition to democracy and end the suffering. He welcomed the Friends of Syria Conference, which had recently started, and he praised the Turkish Government for hosting it. He concluded by expressing his thanks to the Parliament of Uganda for hosting the Assembly.

Mr. M. NAGO (Benin) wished to join other delegates in thanking the people and authorities of Uganda for their excellent organization of the 126th IPU Assembly and the warm hospitality extended to his delegation and to him personally ever since they had arrived in the beautiful city of Kampala.

The theme *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap* was particularly important at a time of widespread crisis, with most governments wondering how to preserve peace and security and at the same time promote development. It would therefore be very appropriate to adopt that as the recurrent theme of the Kampala Assembly.

In order to help preserve the social peace, parliamentarians should keep the lines of communication open with their constituents and pass relevant laws that met citizens' aspirations. In developing countries where a significant portion of the population was illiterate, a face-to-face approach would be more appropriate. In that way, parliamentarians could report on their activities and help where necessary to narrow the gaps between citizens. Such planned visits by members of parliament to their constituencies would help bring them closer to their electorate, build trust and at the same, provide an opportunity to grasp people's concerns and hear their questions. Being attentive to people's concerns and engaging in dialogue brought members of parliament closer to their voters, fostered social cohesion and enhanced the relevance of parliamentary work. In that way, one moved beyond purely representative democracy to a form of participatory democracy.

The National Assembly of Benin was working on an experiment called *Your MP, the pathway to your village*, which involved parliamentarians of all political persuasions visiting their constituents regularly and engaging directly in dialogue. That valued initiative allowed members of parliament to identify the needs of different communities and to become their spokesperson and act as a relay between them and the government. It also allowed them to pass laws that

corresponded to people's aspirations, to respect customs and traditions that were compatible with modern times, and to sensitize each and every person to the need to uphold the law and respect the rights and duties of citizens. Parliamentarians could thus explain the rationale behind certain laws, see for themselves how far projects had advanced and resolve on the ground certain social problems.

Through such initiatives, the gap between elected officials and their electorate would gradually be narrowed. Citizens would understand better why parliaments were useful in a country where parliamentary practice was relatively new.

The Parliament of Benin was exploring various means of communication: publishing a newsletter every six months, airing a radio programme over eight months, and entering into a partnership with different print and audiovisual press agencies. Citizens were thus regularly informed of parliamentary activities and projects under way.

In conclusion, Mr. Nago said he was convinced that parliaments should dare to try novel approaches and become more involved in order to successfully bring themselves closer to their constituents, which could only be beneficial.

Mr. A.R. IBRAHIMI (Afghanistan) brought greetings from the National Assembly of Afghanistan and expressed his pleasure at taking part in the Assembly with so many distinguished fellow parliamentarians. He hoped to build and strengthen relationships and share experiences. He underscored the importance of countries being able to assert their national sovereignty, and stated that that was particularly critical to the development of Afghanistan. He called for the support of the Assembly in the development of Afghan sovereignty. It was necessary to end conflict and bring about stability in Afghanistan, which had fallen victim to terrorism. There had been some positive signs of development in Afghanistan and nearly 60 per cent of the country's budget was now funded by internal revenue. The national infrastructure was also improving. Nevertheless, the country continued to face challenges, which should be raised at the international level, including inadequate resources and the drugs trade.

Education had improved, with eight million children going to school. The status of women in society had also improved, with over 100 women sitting in the National Assembly and many thousands employed throughout the country. The absence of a strong party structure in the National Assembly had a negative impact on parliamentary oversight and work was ongoing in that area. He appreciated the help of the international community on terrorism and wider development goals. He pleaded for Afghanistan not to be forgotten after 2014.

Dr. T.-B. GURIRAB (Namibia) pointed to a long historical friendship and shared cultural heritage between Uganda and Namibia. In 1998, Namibia had hosted the 99th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which he had addressed in his capacity as Foreign Minister. Since that time there had been growing cooperation between the IPU and other major international forums on promoting democracy and international cooperation. It was a difficult time for democracy and the rule of law. Common sense and common humanity were required to prevent the loss of life, particularly in the Middle East. The IPU had adopted a Strategy to ensure that ongoing economic difficulties would not have a negative impact on the functioning of the IPU.

Ms. A. MAKINDA (United Republic of Tanzania) described the many reforms undertaken by the Parliament of Tanzania to bridge the gap between the government and the people. Those included broadcasting debates and using public evidence in committee inquiries. There had been a growing focus on developing the skills of journalists through work conducted by the Press Association. A new civil education outreach unit had been established to explain the role of parliament through the media and to schools. However, the work was challenging in light of financial constraints, a lack of awareness of the function of members of parliament and poor infrastructure in constituencies.

Mr. J. WANI IGGA (South Sudan) said that he was extremely grateful to the IPU for inviting his delegation to attend the 126th IPU Assembly. South Sudan was also extremely thankful to the United Nations for admitting it as its 193rd Member State. Similarly, South Sudan was grateful to those countries which had, on 9 July 2011, sent representatives to attend the official declaration of its independence.

The Parliament of South Sudan had applied to join the IPU. The country hoped sincerely that the IPU would accept its application to join the organization during the Kampala Assembly. South Sudan was committed to abiding by the IPU's Statutes and Rules at all times.

South Sudan faced many challenges. The two most pressing were the failure to agree a common border with Sudan and a failure to resolve the ownership of oil and other energy supplies. The situation was undesirable for both South Sudan and its neighbour to the north, Sudan. The IPU must bring pressure to bear on both countries to reach a peaceful solution. Both countries must display commitment to the Peace Accord that had been so carefully drafted.

The Government of South Sudan desired peace with all its neighbours. The establishment of the new Republic had seen 38 years of internal fighting out of 56 years of independence. That had led to economic and social decline.

In short order, South Sudan had committed to and created a multiparty democracy, including significant decentralization of government. The country was committed to abiding by all United Nations conventions and the statutes of all the other organizations it joined.

Both the Government and Parliament of South Sudan were committed to gender equality. That commitment was genuine and irreversible. Already one quarter of all posts in government and parliament were held by women. He called for all IPU Members to support the request for affiliation to the IPU submitted by the Parliament of South Sudan.

Mr. A.I. EL-TAHIR (Sudan) said that there had been one Sudan. Now there were two nations: Sudan and South Sudan. Sudan welcomed and supported the application of the Parliament of South Sudan to join the IPU.

He was delighted that Uganda was hosting the 126th IPU Assembly. Sudan and Uganda were united in a common purpose. Both countries were strategically located in Central Africa and shared a common history in facing occupation and achieving independence in the face of oppression. All African combatants against oppression would be divinely rewarded.

Parliamentarians had a role to play in promoting the health and well-being of citizens and in ensuring effective and sound government. He praised the reforms that had been demanded by Arab Spring protesters. Although violence was always to be deplored, the end of dictatorships was to be praised.

The gap between parliament and people would be bridged if the rights of citizens were held as supreme by all. Parliaments must provide the means through which people could participate at all levels of democracy. More than 25 per cent of Sudan's parliamentarians were women, demonstrating the country's commitment to equal participation.

Sudan had great respect for South Sudan and would honour, in the name of peace, the separation of the two countries.

Mr. S.N. HUSSAIN BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that inter-parliamentary forums such as the IPU provided an invaluable platform for parliamentarians to exchange ideas for their collective benefit. The theme of the 126th Assembly was very apt and at the same time reflected the IPU's core function and purpose. Parliaments did not exist in a vacuum. They must always remain as close as possible to the people because that would ultimately result in good government and healthy public debate. The debates held by IPU Members could only benefit delegates and assist them in finding solutions to common problems.

Since 2008, Pakistan had been a true democracy following a period of dictatorship. The government was committed to upholding democratic values and representing all people in Pakistan. The former leader of Pakistan, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, had lost her life because she had

remained close to the people. Despite that terrible event, all politicians must remain courageous and uphold Mrs. Bhutto's example. Every year since 2008, the President had addressed parliament. Other measures aimed at bringing parliament closer to the people included measures to increase the participation of women in politics and laws against gender discrimination.

Pakistan was the foremost victim of terrorism. It was important that the government and people remain defiant in the face of terrorism while protecting human rights.

Parliamentarians must continue to recognize that the people were sovereign. In Pakistan, a recently established Parliamentary Visitor Centre had facilitated greater public participation.

There were two levels in the complex process of bridging the gap between the people and parliament. The first concerned policy and structural issues relating to the internal functioning of parliament. The second was the process of parliamentarians discussing local issues in their constituencies. The public had a right to expect a parliament that communicated and reached out to its people. The legislature should be open to all, including the media and civil society, and there should be no restrictions on people visiting parliament to witness proceedings. The broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings was also important in bringing parliament closer to the people, and parliamentary websites should strive to be ever more informative and interactive. The Parliament of Pakistan was working on launching its own television channel and other important means of communication included the public petition process and the question hour. He was optimistic that the Assembly's deliberations would prove highly productive.

Mr. K. AL-MAWALI (Oman) thanked the President, Government, Parliament and people of Uganda for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, and the Secretary General and staff of the IPU for their hard work. There were currently many political, economic and security crises around the world. In particular, the economic crisis had been felt both directly and indirectly, and Oman was following carefully the impact of any mitigating measures on developing countries, in particular African countries. He criticized the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the racist policies of the Israeli Government, the uprooting of indigenous Palestinian citizens and its treatment of religious sites. That conflict would remain a source of tension and the leading countries of the world should find a just and lasting solution. He stated that the subject of the Assembly's debate was timely. Parliaments expressed the will of the people and should not be stagnant institutions. In particular, outreach programmes were required, providing information and raising awareness of citizens' duties. He referred to recent elections and constitutional changes that had enhanced the role of parliament in Oman. He also welcomed the complete separation of the judiciary and the executive, and the wise leadership of the Sultan.

Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. T.K. GEBREHIWOT (Ethiopia) thanked the Ugandan hosts for their excellent organization and hospitality. A functioning relationship between parliaments and the people was central to the effective operation of democracy, because parliaments were the key link between the people and government. Although the mandates of parliaments around the world differed, in general there were three major responsibilities: representing the people in scrutinizing the executive; overseeing appointments to high-level positions, for example in the judiciary; and the passing of legislation. It was particularly important for parliaments to hold discussions on legislation, building a climate of trust during times of uncertainty. Ethiopia had learned that the hard way: the forces which overthrew the dictatorship had relied on the will of the people to succeed. The Ethiopian Constitution was based on self-determination and individual and group rights. It was a diverse country and many responsibilities were devolved from the central level, which meant that elected regional assemblies and local councils had a particularly important role to play. All areas of society were represented and good progress was being made in encouraging women to become part of the political process.

Ethiopian policies were pro-poor and pro-people. While they had not solved all the problems, they were working towards solutions. He noted that good governance reduced the likelihood of violence.

Mr. SANG GUOWEI (China) said that the international community was facing its most difficult challenge since the end of the Cold War. New global structures were required to address those challenges. He made four proposals. First, to respect one another and to deal with issues through dialogue. That required respect for other countries' right to manage their internal affairs. The role of the United Nations was important in that respect. Second, improved global economic governance was required in order to ensure robust growth of the global economy. A system had to be devised that would deliver a fair and non-discriminatory trading regime. Third, there was a need to respect human rights and improve the well-being of all, particularly by meeting the MDGs. Developed countries should honour their commitment to providing 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance. Fourth, there should be greater opportunities for international dialogue such as through the IPU. China supported diplomatic mediation in unstable regions in the Middle East and North Africa. The National People's Congress would strive for robust economic development and social stability in its work programme. China sought to work with other parliaments for peace.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of possible requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

The PRESIDENT announced that two proposals for the subject of an emergency item had been submitted (A/126/2-Inf.1.rev.1), as follows:

- Inter-Parliamentary Union Initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts (Canada, Egypt, France, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom)
- The need to support national reconciliation for building democratic institutions in the countries gripped by unrest and turmoil, particularly in Syria and Bahrain (Islamic Republic of Iran)

She invited the delegations of the United Arab Emirates and Canada respectively to make a presentation on the proposal.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) spoke of the moral duty of the Assembly and of the international community in the face of the events in Syria that had prompted many Syrians to flee to neighbouring countries and had resulted in thousands of deaths. Parliamentarians had been helpless in dealing with the regime's acts of violence in spite of the risks for the region and their international dimension. Action must be taken to rouse the conscience of the international community and uphold the supremacy of international humanitarian law. The United Nations as an international organization and the Arab League as a regional organization must join forces to find a solution that excluded military intervention and preserved the territorial integrity of Syria. Condemning the violence was no longer sufficient; initiatives must be taken such as dispatching an international parliamentary commission of inquiry that would report back to the IPU.

Mr. S. ARMSTRONG (Canada) expressed support for the item, which was the fruit of collaboration between five delegations. He expressed their wish for the IPU to dispatch a mission to Syria.

Mr. S. HADDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) condemned the criticisms levelled at Syria while agreeing with the need to end the bloodshed. That had to be done in a credible way without resorting to armed attacks. Dispatching parliamentary commissions of inquiry would have the advantage of being able to verify what was happening on the ground and whether that corresponded to what was being said. The bloodshed must end, but on all sides. That was what he wanted to tell Mr. Radi, whom he considered as a brother.

Some of the demands in Syria had initially been legitimate but had escalated when foreign countries had sought to interfere in the country's internal affairs. Parliamentarians had proposed a set of reforms that sought to avoid any form of violence. President Bashar Al Assad had said that he would be willing to accept the demands of the people as compared with other demands...

The PRESIDENT asked Mr. Haddad to wrap up.

Mr. S. HADDAD insisted on being allowed to finish his statement.

The PRESIDENT reminded him that he was not permitted to comment on the substance of the item.

Mr. S. HADDAD maintained that he wanted to explain on behalf of Syria how he intended to reach a peaceful solution that would be acceptable to all parties.

Mr. H. FALLAHAT PISHEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) underscored that the experience of various IPU Members would be useful in bringing about an end to the violence and initiating dialogue, it being understood that any foreign intervention would only be possible within the framework of international law, without any interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned. Any foreign intervention of any other kind would jeopardize national reconciliation. It was important not to apply double standards to Syria and Bahrain.

His delegation had decided, in a spirit of cooperation, to withdraw its proposal for an emergency item, and hoped that the IPU would be able to note at its next Assembly improvements in the situations in Syria and Bahrain.

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia) observed that the proposal for an emergency item submitted by the Iranian delegation did not comply with the Rules of the Assembly insofar as the protests in Bahrain did not constitute "a major event of international concern".

The PRESIDENT said that the first proposal had been adopted by consensus for inclusion as an emergency item in the agenda of the Assembly and that the second had been withdrawn.

The joint proposal submitted by the delegations of Canada, Egypt, France, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom was therefore adopted and added to the Assembly agenda.

Final Assembly Agenda

- Item 1 *Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 126th Assembly*
 - Item 2 *Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda*
 - Item 3 *General debate on the overall theme of Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap*
 - Item 4 *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa*
 - Item 5 *Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas*
 - Item 6 *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*
 - Item 7 *Approval of the subject items for the 128th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs*
 - Item 8 *Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts*
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The SECRETARY GENERAL explained that at the first Assembly of each year, proposals for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the Assembly were passed without debate to the drafting committee. The drafting committee would meet on the first floor of Victoria Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 2 April, when it would consider the text of a draft resolution. The drafting committee should be composed of no more than 11 delegates. Each geopolitical group should limit nominations to two persons. Delegates were reminded that the composition of the drafting committee was a matter for delegates themselves, not for the Secretariat.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on the overall theme of Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap

Resumption of the debate

Mr. J.M. CORZO ROMÁN (Colombia) said that Colombia had experienced 100 years of democracy. That made the country one of the longest-lasting democracies in South America. Throughout its history, the IPU had helped Colombia develop its democratic institutions. Executive power had been checked by the increased power and role of the legislature.

In South America, as in other parts of the world, legislative bodies had to some extent lost the trust of citizens. A key way of tackling that loss of trust was to increase transparency. In addition, governments should become more responsive to the needs of their people and should decentralize many functions.

One way that the Colombian Government had attempted to become more relevant to its citizens was by ensuring that wealth accrued from oil and other energy sources was distributed more equitably throughout society. Parliament had also legislated for anti-corruption measures. Those and other measures had increased the trust of citizens in their elected representatives.

In Colombia and other countries in South America, the trade in illegal drugs was at the root of many problems facing democracies. It was now time to consider whether the war on drugs was a losing battle. The drug trade had caused violence, countless deaths, poverty and misery across the region. The forthcoming Summit of the Americas should consider as a priority new ways of tackling that illegal drug trade. The fact was that South America supplied illegal drugs to 22 million North Americans. There was clearly a problem of both supply and demand. All countries in the Americas must work together to eradicate that source of misery and death. He thanked IPU Members for their support in dealing with the problem of illegal drugs.

Mr. R. PEZ FERRO (Cuba) noted that the IPU had stated that the relationship between parliament and citizens should be governed by key principles such as equity, accessibility and transparency. Parliament was only legitimate and representative if it sought to draw closer to citizens, and the topic of the general debate was thus particularly relevant. The disconnect between people and governments around the world was now a fact of life, with the media talking about the demands of citizens in all regions. For example, there were questions about police brutality against citizens who were protesting against cuts in health, education and social security. Unemployment was also growing, which mainly affected young people and vulnerable sectors of society. The experience of 50 years of the Cuban revolution had shown the importance of close ties between parliament and the people. In Cuba, citizens were actively involved in the legislative process, and their views were taken on board in a way that enriched the body of law.

Cuba was currently experiencing difficulties caused by the ongoing effect of 51 years of the financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States, which was a major obstacle to its economic development. The blockade caused tremendous suffering for the Cuban people and was a flagrant violation of human rights. He also criticized the jailing of Cubans in the United States and the long history of support for terrorist activities against Cuba.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) was delighted that the General Debate was devoted to the question of the link between citizens or the electorate and parliaments. That link and that link alone provided the basis for parliamentarians to acquire their legitimacy, powers and rights.

As enshrined in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country". People exercised that right either directly or through their parliament. Cases where citizens could exercise their right directly to participate in the management of the public affairs their country were rare. Referendums were one such example. But in everyday practice, it was through their representatives that citizens exercised their right to participate in public affairs.

In a democracy, the executive was designated at regular intervals through free elections. But once designated, they could only act legitimately and in accordance with the Constitution if they were held to account for their actions by parliament. It was thus up to members of parliament to act as the legitimate guardians of citizens' right to demand and obtain from the government justification for its actions, and where necessary, prompt it to change its policy.

Society had undergone profound changes on matters that had a significant impact on political representation. Among those changes was a higher level of training and education among citizens and the information revolution. Previously, information was the preserve of professionals. Today, thanks to the Internet, anyone could send and receive information without going through filters, a chain of command or entry obstacles. That was a great freedom that was bestowed onto citizens. In some ways, the Internet had placed on an equal footing the representative and the represented.

That development called for the role of representatives to be redefined, by focusing more on the functions that remained inaccessible to citizens. The irreplaceable role of parliamentarians was to identify the common good, to distinguish the general interest, which, as everyone knew, should not be confused with the sum total of personal interests.

As with all things, the Internet had both positive and negative aspects. Parliamentarians should guard against its improper utilization, for example, that the Internet was not placed at the service of a coalition of private interests, for communitarian purposes or misused by sects. Everyone should be aware that the Internet could also be used to spread baseless rumours or information aimed at destabilizing legitimate governments.

Discussions on the definition of the new role of representatives in a world where as never before citizens could be informed, give information and participate in the public debate were elaborated on in the *Global Parliamentary Report*, which contained much food for thought.

Parliament must become more representative in terms of its composition, it being understood that that could only be achieved through the political parties that selected their candidates. Those parties must become more aware of the need to open up to new categories of citizens, often sidelined from politics. They must turn to society in its entirety, in all its social and cultural diversity, to better represent citizens' interests and aspirations.

The public must also be given a chance to become more involved in parliamentary work. The *Global Parliamentary Report* rightly insisted on the importance of assessing public policy, as well as the need to make people better acquainted with parliament. The information coming out of parliament was too often submerged in a flood of myriad information.

The PRESIDENT stated that the Assembly was currently taking place along the Equator and would again be on the Equator in one year's time, for the Assembly in Ecuador, so she took particular pleasure in welcoming the first speaker from the Ecuador delegation.

Mr. J.C. CASSINELLI (Ecuador) brought greetings from the Parliament of Ecuador and thanked the organizers for their hospitality. Parliaments had to play an active role if citizens were to have rights: that meant listening more and taking account of what was being said by organizations at the grass-root level. Constant reform was required and democracy needed to be rethought, encompassing a paradigm shift in the concept of the rule of law.

Human rights needed to be defended in order to boost participation in the parliamentary process. The Constitution of Ecuador stipulated the need for transparency and participation by citizens. The role of citizens in the parliamentary process had grown through a move away from representative democracy to participatory democracy. Relevant mechanisms included consultation and the power of citizens to impeach politicians. He supported the proposal for an emergency item presented by Argentina regarding the Falkland Islands/Malvinas and extended an invitation to the IPU to Quito in Ecuador for the 128th IPU Assembly.

Mr. V. Mateu (Andorra), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. C. NISHIMURA (Japan) stated that citizens lost faith in parliament if information was lacking. The development of the Internet offered major advantages for improving access. The Parliament of Japan had set up a website in 1997, which currently recorded 100 million hits per year. Social media also played an important role in enhancing participation in the parliamentary process for those groups that might not otherwise engage. The use of the Internet had made it easier and cheaper to engage the public, but she noted that technology could also be misused to hinder the democratic process.

Mr. N. FROLOV (Russian Federation) said that major reforms had been undertaken in Russia to increase the opportunities for the public to participate in political processes, such as the direct election of governors. The most recent election of the President of Russia had demonstrated openness and fair competition for the role. Russia was working with the other leading emerging countries - Brazil, China and India - to achieve a fairer world. Those countries were increasingly important to the global economy. The situation in North Africa and the Middle East needed to be addressed through international law. He condemned any intervention by force

and stressed the importance of halting the violence and coordinating the humanitarian response through the United Nations.

Ms. M.T. VIEGAS (Timor-Leste) said that she was delighted to address the IPU Assembly in Uganda, a country which was now a reference point for political stability in Africa.

Parliament was the main representative body of the people and the expression of popular will. The challenge facing all parliamentarians was how to bring parliament closer to the interests of citizens. That would ensure the maintenance of democratic values in society. A solution could only be found through hard work and constant dialogue. The challenge was particularly great in developing countries, which generally had other significant issues to overcome.

Timor-Leste had experienced 10 years of independence. The country had worked with organizations, including the IPU, to grasp the challenges faced by democratic countries. Economic development in Asia was taking place at an incredible speed. The challenge of securing better living standards, health care, education for all not just the few, and greater income and gender equality would be taken up through the work of parliamentarians. Parliaments would only become more relevant to people if income distribution became more equitable.

Timor-Leste had recently adopted a Strategic Development Plan up to 2020. The Plan concentrated on the development of key infrastructure and the promotion of education and health care for citizens. It represented a challenge greater than that of achieving independence. To that end, Timor-Leste was grateful for the support of countries in Asia and elsewhere, including Australia, Brazil, New Zealand and Portugal. Timor-Leste hoped to join the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) soon.

Good neighbourly relations within Asia and with other countries in the world could only help promote peace and economic prosperity for Timor-Leste.

Ms. J. MPHANDE (Malawi) said that she was extremely grateful to the Parliament and people of Uganda for the hospitality they had shown to the Malawi delegation. The values shown by Uganda in hosting the 126th Assembly reflected the core values of the IPU.

It was clear that the gap between governments and their citizens at the national, regional and local levels must be addressed. Government only exercised legitimacy with the consent of the people they governed. The Malawi Government and National Assembly recognized that they must take measures to ensure that public policy and the scrutiny of government action remained relevant to the concerns of the electorate. At their best, parliaments ensured an effective oversight of the executive, passed sound laws and represented all of its citizens fairly.

Effective parliaments relied on the trust of the people. However, there was a growing sense that confidence in parliamentarians had waned. As a consequence, parliamentarians now had diminished democratic legitimacy. That was manifested most clearly in dissatisfaction with certain laws. Laws must express the beliefs and values shared by governments and citizens. All too often government took citizens for granted and implemented inequitable laws and policies, which put the interests of its citizens at a disadvantage. Public consent was sometimes gained through coercion and the provision of incentives for citizens but in the long term, that widened the gap between those who governed and the governed. Public policy should always be aimed at improving the lives of all citizens. Malawi had taken a number of steps to increase the legitimacy of its Parliament and Government. Most significantly, it had adopted the 2020 Growth and Development Strategy, which was aimed at achieving sustainable growth and a significant reduction in poverty. Malawi must transform itself from a consumer of imports to an exporting country.

The Malawi Parliament was keen to improve its communications with citizens. The National Assembly had recognized that it played a key role in educating citizens about democracy. Further initiatives would be introduced to improve the National Assembly website and the use of social media.

Mr. F.M. MAALIM (Kenya) said that the 2007-2008 general election in Kenya had resulted in widespread violence and death. Thankfully, through the intervention of the international community and the wise leadership provided by Kenyans themselves, the country had avoided becoming a failed State. Kenya had significantly changed for the better. Its parliament was a trailblazer of reform, not only for Africa, but for the rest of the world to follow.

A number of independent commissions had been set up as a result of the reform of the judiciary, changes to election boundaries, scrutiny of police operations and ethics and monitoring of corruption in public life. Those commissions had undoubtedly enhanced public trust in its political institutions.

Countries faced similar problems all over the world. There were conflicts between the weak and the strong, the poor and the rich and voters and elected officials. The Kenyan Parliament had reformed its parliamentary proceedings, including by making the work of parliamentary committees more transparent, broadcasting parliamentary debates and questioning ministers. The introduction of public petitions representing the concerns of the electorate had also succeeded in gaining the trust of citizens.

In any civilized society there was no room for abject poverty, hunger, or a huge gap between rich and poor or between the powerful and the weak. There were imbalances even within the international organizations: for example, one Member of the United Nations was more powerful than all of the other Members put together, except for the other four on the Security Council. Similarly, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were controlled by a few members and even the IPU was controlled by the Twelve Plus Group. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he noted that if politicians did not deliver the goods then the people should vote them out of power. He discussed the importance of dealing with the debt of developing countries, which had been incurred by dictators doing the bidding of developed countries during the Cold War. Those debts had to be written off. It was also necessary to deal with inequalities in the world economy and discrimination in markets. US dominance of the IMF and European dominance of the World Bank were unsustainable.

Ms. NGUYEN THI KIM NGAN (Viet Nam) brought greetings from the National Assembly and the people of Viet Nam, and thanked the Ugandan Government, Parliament and people for organizing the Assembly. The world had experienced a period of political and economic upheaval, which had directly impacted upon the living standards of people, particularly those in the developing world. People around the world were placing their expectations on parliaments, so the topic of the Assembly was very apt. Although Viet Nam was one of the fastest growing economies, the situation of the Vietnamese people remained difficult. The State had endeavoured to curb inflation and stabilize the economy, maintaining growth, social welfare and security in order to enhance living standards. The Vietnamese National Assembly had given importance to greater democracy and closer ties to the people. She noted that the activities of the National Assembly were brought to the attention of the public by various means, including newspapers, television, websites and other multimedia forms. There were also pathways for the public to comment on draft legislation and policies and a Commission for Public Petitions had been formed. Work had taken place to build the capacity of individual members of parliament, particularly those who had recently been elected, through training. The performance of the National Assembly in recent years had been supported by the people. Lastly, she underscored the desire of the National Assembly to continue playing an active role in the various inter-parliamentary forums.

Mr. I. GIL LAZARO (Spain) thanked the people and Parliament of Uganda for their hospitality. The theme of the 126th IPU Assembly, *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap*, was a call to find ways and means of deepening democracy to achieve a democracy of the 21st century, participatory democracy. After all, what was democracy if not participation, freedom, human rights? All forms of inequality and discrimination that existed for whatever reasons were

incompatible with a free, participatory and developed society. Human rights were predicated on the rejection of any form of discrimination based on race, religion or sexual orientation.

Bridging the gap between parliaments and citizens did not require elaborating a strategy or identifying the most appropriate resources. Rather, it required stock-taking and self-criticism, as demanded particularly in European societies. One had to go back to principles in order to make democracy more credible and convince citizens that they were well represented. Politicians should display exemplary conduct, be receptive to the needs of their constituents, and be in constant contact with them. They should not become a bureaucratic elite far removed from the reality of society. They must be the voice of the citizens who enjoyed no privileges and therefore surrender all privileges themselves. Once that first step back to principles was made, strategies could be drawn up and measures agreed, such as using new information technologies. Democracy also entailed respect for procedure and it would therefore be a mistake to do away with the solemn nature of parliamentary ceremonial and procedure in favour of cold and unceremonious communication.

It was incumbent on politicians to build a credible democracy, to be attentive to citizens, and to be accountable: those they were meant to represent would never forgive them for betraying them.

The PRESIDENT said that the General Debate would resume the following morning and start with the intervention of the delegate from Chad.

The sitting rose at 6.35 p.m.

SITTING OF MONDAY 2 APRIL 2012

MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Ms. R. Kadaga, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on the overall theme of Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap

Resumption of the debate

Mr. A. SHAHID (Maldives) said that he was delighted to address the IPU at its 126th Assembly.

The Maldives Parliament was the central pillar of the country's democracy. Without Parliament, which acted as a crucible of democracy in the country, the legitimacy of all democratic institutions would crumble. Furthermore, the Parliament remained central to debate in the country.

Recent tumultuous events had threatened the Maldives nascent democracy. However, the Maldives would emerge through recent troubles with its democracy intact. The Parliament would remain a bulwark against aggression because it continued to enjoy the consent of the people.

Parliament remained a place where people worked together and reconciled their differences through dialogue. The Maldives Parliament had enjoyed the recent support of the IPU and its Secretary General, who had provided much needed advice and support in recent times. Until recently, the IPU had not enjoyed wide recognition in the Maldives, however, that had now changed in the light of the Organization's recent support for the democratic institutions in the country.

The Maldives Parliament had recently taken measures to make its proceedings more relevant and transparent to citizens. Plenary and committee meetings were now broadcast on television and radio. Interest groups were regularly invited to give evidence when draft bills were scrutinized. Article 99 of the Constitution guaranteed the right to petition parliament and that right was exercised enthusiastically and regularly by the people. However, it was important that Parliament did not become complacent and over the coming weeks and months, it would make further efforts to reinforce its legitimacy among the people.

Ms. J.A. BAMFORD-ADDO (Ghana) thanked the people, Speaker and Parliament of Uganda for their warm welcome and hard work in organizing the Assembly. She noted that public confidence in parliaments and parliamentarians had dwindled rapidly over recent decades, with people not fully understanding the appropriate role of parliament. Increasingly, politics was seen as a dialogue between the people and the executive, but in reality, parliamentarians were the true representatives of the people. Modern democracy required citizens to be continuously involved in governance. Elections were important but only one step in the process: there needed to be a dialogue with the people and the public needed to be actively involved in public policy.

The Parliament of Ghana had taken a number of actions to forge closer ties with the people, namely: visits by students to Parliament on a daily basis; youth clubs which taught students about Parliament; outreach programmes; constituency work where members of parliament were easily approachable and willing to exchange views; the media, particularly the radio and television; parliamentarians' back-to-school programmes; regional parliamentary resource centres; wide availability of parliamentary publications; better use of technology, particularly the Internet, to communicate how parliament worked; and participation by civil society organizations in committee and bill proceedings.

There were a number of constraints to closer ties with the people. Those included the socio-economic condition of many Ghanaians: in particular disadvantaged communities were marginalized due to lack of time, limited access to the media and a lack of education.

She concluded that parliamentarians should be willing to reach out to the public and to act on the information received from their constituents.

Mr. H. KABADI (Chad) thanked the people, Government and Parliament of Uganda for their warm hospitality and congratulated Ms. Kadaga on being elected to preside over the 126th IPU Assembly.

The current global context showed that there was a wide gap between leaders and citizens, whose legitimate aspirations were not sufficiently taken into account. The choice of theme, "Parliament and people: Bridging the gap", was thus very apt. He wished to present an overview of the political situation in Chad in general and that of the National Assembly in particular.

It was in 1990, when the Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS) had come into power, that democracy had been born in Chad. The National Sovereign Conference had set up transitional institutions, namely the Supreme Transitional Council, which had drawn up the new Constitution that had been put to a referendum in 1996. On the basis of that Constitution, the 1996 and 2001 presidential elections had been organized, as well as the 1996 and 2002 parliamentary elections.

Following those elections, the opposition parties had called for improvements to the organization of elections. On 13 August 2007, after tough negotiations, the ruling and opposition parties agreed the conditions for holding free, open, democratic and transparent elections. According to the terms of that agreement, elections would be supervised and organized by the

National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), which was composed of equal numbers of ruling and opposition party members, both at the national and decentralized levels. Equal numbers of ruling party/opposition members should also be respected among polling station officers. Because of that political accord of 13 August 2007, it had been possible to hold the 2011 presidential and parliamentary elections and the 2012 communal elections in a calm atmosphere.

The National Assembly, returned after the February 2011 elections, comprised 188 members, among them 28 women. In accordance with the Constitution, the National Assembly oversaw government action, examined and passed bills submitted to it by the executive and also presented bills itself in a bid to meet citizens' aspirations. The government was bound to respond to any requests for explanations made by the National Assembly about its actions.

To avoid widening the gap with citizens, parliamentarians carried out regular visits to their respective constituencies, which allowed them to get a feel for the daily reality of their constituents: the rapport between the administration and citizens, the execution of development projects and relations between various communities.

In cases where there was a crisis of confidence in the Executive, the National Assembly was often called upon to intervene. It had often had to dispatch missions in the field with a view to gathering information and promoting reconciliation. The reports of those missions were circulated to all members of parliament for examination in plenary. If the facts contained in the reports were serious, the National Assembly could resort to various means: written or oral questions, set up a commission of inquiry, bring a motion of censure, or hold a committee hearing.

Desirous of staying in permanent contact with its grassroots, members of parliament often exchanged views with their constituents about questions such as environmental protection and combating desertification. The sittings of the National Assembly were public and the complete Hansard of its deliberations were published in the Official Gazette. Furthermore, plenary session proceedings were carried live by Chad national radio and television as well as by private media agencies. The parliament also had its own newspaper, *Le Débat*, which carried articles about the activities of the various representatives.

Parliamentarians must continue to keep citizens informed about the management of public affairs. If the needs of citizens were really taken into account, for example the construction of health centres or schools, through the promotion of jobs and other measures, the process of democratization would be strengthened.

As the National Assembly of Chad was still in its early years, it was still experiencing teething problems. In an ever more demanding world, modernizing the parliament remained a challenge. To achieve that, it would need to avail itself of modern tools, which required adequate public funds, inter-parliamentary cooperation and the support of development partners. In conclusion, Mr. Kabadi wished the 126th IPU Assembly every success.

Mr. A. GRUBER (Hungary) said that new opportunities for dialogue between parliamentarians and the public were emerging. The Internet in particular had in some respects now overtaken the traditional press. Dialogue between MPs and the public was more direct than ever. However, there were dangers. Citizens needed a clear understanding of how the legislative process worked. Hungary therefore was increasing the transparency of its legislative process. Parliaments needed to engage with the youth, which was increasingly disillusioned with politics. He stressed the importance of engaging with constituents.

Mr. K.P. LORENTZEN (Denmark) said there had been many public uprisings against dictatorship in the past year that had caught many by surprise. In such situations it was important to protect the innocent from genocide. That had been achieved in Libya. The UN-led process had led to a range of measures, including the imposition of a no-fly zone. He believed that the move to democracy would spread further although there would be challenges. The international community must support that process, including in Syria. While the United Nations had clearly condemned the violence and had made efforts to bring it to an end, a democratic transition

should be supported by the IPU. Parliamentarians also needed to protect the human rights of minority groups.

Ms. K. Komi (Finland), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. T. NHEM (Cambodia) said that parliament was at the heart of democracy. Parliamentarians had to respect and defend the interest of all citizens. In Cambodia the media and public were invited to view the legislative process. The parliament had increased its links with the public and had introduced a range of legislation to facilitate that. However, there was still a gap between parliament and the public. Cambodia was working to increase the use of public forums. Alongside that work the public had to be made aware of their civic duties.

There was a responsibility on citizens to actively seek out information about the parliamentary process. That could be done through observing parliamentary proceedings either on television or visiting parliament.

Mr. A. COSTA (Portugal) said that although up to recently few countries had had a parliament and organized free elections, the parliamentary system had spread far and wide across the world. In 1960, a book entitled *The dawn of parliament* had appeared; today the world was witnessing the renaissance and expansion of the parliamentary system to all regions of the world. A number of problems, however, remained to be resolved. First of all, democracy must be consolidated so that the overall political system did not limit parliament's role to a purely theoretic one. During periods of transition, parliaments must be guaranteed the ability to effectively exercise their rights. The Arab Spring had shown that regardless of what they were called, certain institutions had nothing to do with parliamentarianism. Efforts must be made to build genuine democracy at a time when the media tended to be somewhat indifferent to parliaments.

In countries with a long-standing or more recent parliamentary tradition, it was also necessary to bridge the gap between citizens and political leaders. Members of parliament must be attentive and promote consultation in order to ensure citizen participation. In that way, their decisions would be better understood and accepted. They must also make full use of the new information technologies, which ensured transparency as well as the dissemination and follow-up in real time of parliamentary proceedings. Media in general and the new communication technologies in particular helped build a parliamentary culture for *homo videns*. In Portugal, through the parliamentary channels the public was familiarized with parliamentary work.

Thanks to the wide range of modern communication media, politicians could have regular contact with their constituents and not only when they went out to canvass their votes. They must learn to communicate in order to be listened to. Communication and dialogue with citizens were essential to reduce the distance between members of parliament and their constituents.

Democracy had been born in ancient Greece. That fact should serve to encourage all to express their solidarity with the Greek people, who were experiencing great difficulties, and should encourage nations to go back to the original values of democracy in order to build the future.

Ms. I. HEGGØ (Norway) said that when citizens became distant from their representatives, society faced a significant problem. It was commonly accepted that a major cause of the uprisings in the Middle East in 2011 was that citizens had become disconnected from their leaders.

Recently, many countries had experienced a very low voter turnout in general elections. Some major democracies had witnessed a turnout of below 50 per cent, demonstrative of the apathy about parliamentary democracy. Unfortunately, some parliamentarians had argued that low turnout was not a problem and that if people did not exercise their right to vote, that was their sovereign decision.

However, it was incumbent on politicians to improve engagement with the electorate or else the foundations of democracy would crumble. There were a number of potential remedies: first, voters should be able to identify with the politicians who represented them. Political parties should enlist candidates who were representative of their communities. In particular, greater effort should be made to ensure that women and young people were represented in the party leadership. Politicians themselves should always represent the interest of their constituents rather than their own interests.

In addition, political parties must offer a real choice to the electorate. In too many democracies voters believed that there was no real difference between the governing party and the opposition. That denial of choice inevitably led to apathy.

Fundamental to a thriving democracy were free and fair elections, freedom of expression and the freedom of association. However, parties that had been in power for a long time often denied opposition parties certain freedoms, including access to the media and, in some cases, the right to form new political parties.

Bridging the gap between parliamentarians and the electorate would be crucial to the continued existence of democracy. That should be given absolute priority by all delegates present at the Assembly.

Ms. P. ERNSTBERGER (Germany) thanked Uganda for its generous hospitality.

The issue being debated by the Assembly was an urgent one. Voters in many countries around the world regularly complained that parliamentarians were aloof, out of touch with their concerns, and did not engage with the issues that were relevant to their daily lives. Similarly, many voters regarded bureaucrats as not serving their interests. The result of that was often very low voter turnout at general elections. People felt that however they voted nothing would change. Their decision not to vote was made in protest at the existing political system.

However, there were a number of potential solutions to that problem. First, communication between elected officials and the electorate should be improved. Second, politicians should act and make decisions in a transparent manner. Third, politicians should always take voters' concerns seriously, particularly when devising new policies. Fourth, parliamentarians should seek regular and direct contact with the people they represented. It was particularly important that young people engaged with and understood parliamentary processes. Fifth, politicians should always focus on improving the lives of their constituents.

It was important that representatives engaged regularly with ordinary people so that they could gain an understanding of their daily lives. That involved ensuring an active and visible presence in their constituencies and explaining policies in an accessible way to people. In addition, parliamentarians must be open to new forms of public participation through the use of the Internet and social media. Modern communications would continue to revolutionize the way that people engaged with each other and with their representatives. The German Parliament had recently taken significant steps to engage with people on line in an experiment termed *liquid democracy*. For that experiment to work, voters would have to be convinced that they had a real impact on the formulation and implementation of policy. At the same time, it was important that people without access to modern communication were not left behind and ignored by politicians.

Ms. D. BRONZETTI (San Marino) thanked the Ugandan authorities for their warm welcome and excellent organization of the 126th IPU Assembly. The overall theme was very topical, even for a small republic such as San Marino.

A well-functioning parliament was measured not only by the number of laws it enacted, but also by its ability to set shared policy guidelines while respecting democratic rules. All parliaments should seek to strike the right balance between exercising the power of governments and safeguarding the rights of citizens, including freedom of expression.

In the fragile context of an economic downturn the world was currently experiencing, the delegated power that parliamentarians were exercising increasingly risked losing its credit. That

crisis of confidence inevitably created as wide a gulf between parliaments and citizens as the inability of politics to provide the necessary responses. Parliaments must face with wisdom and firmness that difficult period and encourage governments to provide appropriate responses to the crises, as unpopular as they might be.

His country was sufficiently small to accommodate several possibilities for parliament to reach out to and interact with citizens. Parliamentary activities were given high visibility and had an immediate impact on the country, which in turn forged close ties.

Nevertheless, the distance between parliaments and their constituents was not merely a question of space. National laws provided for the active participation of citizens in the country's institutions. Apart from popular legislative initiatives and referendums, there was an old form of direct democracy known as *Istanza d'Arengo*, which called on the parliament to rule on public matters presented by way of petition. Recently, San Marino had adopted reforms to the electoral law to ensure that voters participated in a more effective manner.

In San Marino as in other places, the role of younger generations was pivotal. It was important to impart to young people the idea that politics was part and parcel of civic life, because it was through politics that a country's destiny was decided. It was necessary to spur the interest of young people in history and encourage them to participate in the choices for the future.

Bringing together the world's parliaments, the IPU Assembly would no doubt be able to provide guidelines from which States could draw inspiration to counter the very dangerous trend of distancing citizens from the institutions that represented them. One should constantly be reminded that politics was a noble vocation. After all, politics was about committing oneself to the service of citizens; it was about dialogue and participation by all, and acting for the greater good.

Mr. K. AKHAMOUNTRY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) wished first of all, in the jubilee year of Uganda's independence, to bring to the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament the warm greetings of Ms. Ya Tho Tou, the Speaker of the Laos National Assembly. He congratulated Mrs. Kadaga on being elected to preside over the 126th IPU Assembly and was convinced that, under her able leadership, the Assembly would achieve all the noble goals it had set for itself.

He wished to thank the Ugandan authorities for their warm welcome. It was his first visit to Uganda and he greatly appreciated the hospitality shown to him in the beautiful city of Kampala.

The theme of the General Debate *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap* could hardly be more topical. Parliaments the world over were faced with an increasingly complex situation where uncertainty and unpredictability prevailed. Current problems were far from affecting a single country, let alone a single region. Questions such as food security, energy security, climate change, transborder crime, the MDGs, public debt and the unlawful movement of workers called for a global approach and international solidarity, particularly among parliaments. The role of the IPU could well prove crucial.

Other forums helped build parliamentary solidarity. That was the case of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership, which had already held six meetings. In October, the Laos National Assembly would have the honour of organizing the seventh meeting in the capital, Vientiane.

The Laos National Assembly strongly supported any policy based on the peaceful settlement of problems. It was that policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation for development that the Government of Laos had been conducting for years. It had borne fruit in terms of political stability and social progress.

The Constitution and the Law governing the National Assembly obliged members of parliament to report on their activities to their constituents. After each plenary session, parliamentarians must go to their respective constituencies to inform voters about the results of their work. Voters in turn asked questions or pointed out problems. If bills had been passed or if questions of national interest had been decided upon during the session, parliamentarians were

bound to explain how they voted, report on the content of the bills and make their personal position known on various items on the agenda.

In conclusion, Mr. Akhamountry wished the 126th Assembly every success in its deliberations.

Mr. T. HENARE (New Zealand) said it was necessary, in asking how to bridge the gap between parliament and the people, to ask whether the people wanted parliament brought to them through elections alone, or whether they wanted more.

He was the Chairman of the Maori Affairs Select Committee and it was his responsibility to take the committee around the country as often as possible. People were more than voting fodder and should be encouraged to participate in democracy to the fullest possible extent.

He criticized the historic treatment of indigenous peoples, noting that the greatest crime had been deculturalization, which had seen their language, culture and way of life taken away. The idea that indigenous peoples should morph into the identity of their colonizers was unacceptable. The reason that so many indigenous peoples around the world featured in worrying health and education statistics was that they had had their identities removed.

He urged all peoples to use common denominators as a way of binding themselves together rather than setting themselves apart, acting as adults rather than children. He concluded by extending his best wishes to the young people in Egypt, Libya, Syria and Tunisia who were truly acting in the best interests of democracy.

Mr. C. GAMOU (Uruguay) thanked the people of Uganda for their warm welcome. He did not propose to give lessons to others on how to run their own affairs, but he would give an overview of what had been done in Uruguay to bring civil society and parliamentarians closer together.

He commented that political parties in Uruguay were adversaries, but they also all loved their country as much as he did. That was an idea that had permeated society for 30 years. He stated that the status of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas was just as much a national issue for Uruguay as it was for Argentina, and he called on his fellow parliamentarians from the United Kingdom to resume negotiations on sovereignty.

The planet was on loan from the next generation. Many people were dying around the world. Africa had a role in returning pride to humanity through figures such as Nelson Mandela. Quoting from John Lennon he argued that billions of people relied on parliamentarians to deliver peace.

Mr. K.-J. LEE (Republic of Korea) said that social networking was changing the political landscape in his country. It had led to fast changes in political views. Young people could be more directly engaged in the political process. Social networking sites were used by candidates to be in contact with many more thousands of voters. Protecting human rights was an important role of parliamentarians. The arrest and repatriation from China of defectors from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea needed to be addressed by all countries. Defectors were sent to concentration camps similar to Auschwitz. He expressed concern about his northern neighbour's failed satellite launch trial, which could be to test new missile technology. The trial could lead to increased tensions in the region. Instead, that country should focus its efforts on alleviating the plight of its people.

Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. H.B. HAMOUDI (Iraq) said that the Arab world had faced unprecedented changes through the Arab Spring. The will of the people was being heard. It had led to many reforms in Middle Eastern countries. However, challenges related to terrorism, the economy, corruption and conflict in the region could undermine the process. The Iraqi Parliament had supported the Arab

Spring and had spoken out in support of Arab people. It rejected violence by any regime, but also rejected interference by the international community in any country's internal affairs. Those challenges should be resolved through debate. There were many reforms being undertaken in the Iraqi Parliament, such as the creation of a second Chamber and funding for political parties. Parliament was also increasing civil society participation in the legislative process. He appealed for continued foreign investment in Iraq.

Mr. M. NYEIN (Myanmar) said that his country had established a new Constitution in 2008 and described how reform had translated into changes to the democratic process. Myanmar had established a Commission for Economic Reform.

Although many of its proposals had not been agreed, the Myanmar Parliament had ensured that the voice of the electorate had been heard. Parliament had respected the views, traditions and wishes of the people and had always sought to represent them fairly.

The Parliament of Myanmar was delighted to seek reaffiliation to the IPU. The support of IPU delegates for their application would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. A. RAZZI (Italy) said that the need to bridge the gap between politicians and those who voted for them was common to many parliamentary democracies. There were high expectations from voters about those who represented them. However, politicians were ordinary human beings; they were not omnipotent. To wield influence individual parliamentarians must collaborate with their fellow parliamentarians and act in a common cause. It was unreasonable of voters to place overly high expectations on individual parliamentarians to achieve change.

In Italy, corruption was the single largest threat to the existence of democracy. It undermined the whole political system and was the cause of much apathy. Many politicians enjoyed privileges that were not shared by the electorate. They moved about in chauffeur-driven limousines and enjoyed access to exclusive places. That only served to widen the distance between the people and those who governed them. The electorate recognized that everybody made mistakes in their lives but they expected politicians to always act in good faith.

The issue of disengagement had been around for many years. Many platitudes and idle words had been expressed about how to solve the problem of the distance between politicians and the electorate. Now was the time for action.

Some politicians had become aloof and looked down on their constituents. Politicians should ensure that they were visible and knew their constituents. They should visit their local supermarket and answer telephone calls and e-mail messages from their constituents. People would often disagree with their view but they would respect them for engaging in an open and public way.

Politics was a noble and honourable pursuit. Politicians dealt with issues affecting the daily lives of people, including housing, finances and welfare. Politicians must always act in a transparent and honest way when dealing with voters' concerns.

Mr. J.L. OULANYAH (Uganda) wished all delegates a warm welcome to Uganda.

Fifty years ago, Uganda had gained independence from Britain. However, the country was still seeking to identify its place in the world order. The hosting of an IPU Assembly in Kampala was part of that process.

The theme of the Assembly indicated that, to some extent, politicians had failed. A number of questions must be answered: were policies still consistent with the will of the people? Were laws consistent with promoting and protecting freedom? Were economic policies really for the good of the people or for narrow sectoral interests? Were politicians concerned with the lives of others or with their own self interest? Was government truly by the people and for the people?

Delegates must decide whether they themselves were the bridge between voters and the executive, whether they were still building the bridge between the two, or whether they were repairing a bridge that already existed. He said that he was building the bridge and that he

needed adequate tools and material to do so. All politicians must rise to the challenge of repairing the link between voters and their representatives, the key to which was to do everything possible to promote participation in the electoral process.

A number of constitutional theorists had propounded views on how democracies could be improved. There was no single answer to the problem. However, solutions must be devised urgently because all countries faced significant challenges, including climate change, malnutrition, insecurity, uncertain energy supplies, terrorism and piracy.

Politicians must provide relevant solutions to these problems that would require a new way of thinking and a rejection of old certainties. If they failed to provide that leadership, apathy would result. Politicians should give people hope that their lives would improve. They must act transparently, actively scrutinize the executive and increase citizen participation in the democratic process. More people participating in politics meant that the legitimacy of parliamentarians would grow.

Mr. N. SALERNO (Panama) thanked the Ugandan hosts for their warm welcome. He supported the call by Argentina for an additional item on the agenda about the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, particularly today, the 30th anniversary of the invasion.

Parliaments had historically attempted to be an effective and sincere link to the people, in particular the most needy, which was as important as ever given that so many people's basic needs were still not met. Those needs included water, housing, food, health, work, education and good governance. All of those were reasons to be working hard in parliamentary chambers around the world, with the aim of finding concrete solutions and getting closer to constituents and stakeholder groups.

The people wanted participatory democracy. In Panama, there was extensive participation by citizens, who could put forward ideas for legislation in priority areas such as health, education and housing. Through those mechanisms, citizens had a voice in the legislative process, but they had to provide justification for the projects which they put forward.

He welcomed the opening in March of Panama's fourth citizens parliamentary office, noting that the intention was ultimately to have nine offices, one in each region. There was also a national youth assembly each year, involving 71 representatives from different parts of the country. He spoke of a 24-hour television channel explaining how parliament worked and the free access to parliament enjoyed by the Panamanian people. A key priority was to ensure that parliamentarians responded to the wishes of voters through, for example, public hearings, thematic meetings and referendums. It was also important to make use of the mass media and social networks, which offered the possibility of direct access to representatives. He concluded by calling on the IPU and parliaments in developed countries to continue providing advice and support to parliaments in developing countries.

Mr. F. DRILON (Philippines) thanked the Speaker and Parliament of Uganda for the warm hospitality which had made his visit memorable. The theme of the Assembly was very opportune because in a strong democracy, parliaments listened and responded to their people. In addition to the traditional means of communicating with the public, for example through meetings and on-site consultations, he highlighted the possibilities presented by the new social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Those new media enabled everybody to convey their thoughts and opinions at the click of a button, and it was welcome that the IPU was keeping abreast of those new technologies by improving its website and establishing a Twitter account. However, it was important to remain conscious of the digital divide, since many people still lacked access to computers and the Internet. All sectors of society, particularly the marginalized, needed to be included in the digital age. He praised the success of the Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students (GILAS) project in the Philippines, a public-private sector initiative which had successfully promoted online skills. Parliament was also enhancing its web services, including the live streaming of important proceedings.

He commented that genuine and sincere public service remained the best bridge to the hearts and minds of the people. That meant eliminating any mindset of entitlement in public service and recalling that public office was a public trust. The Arab Spring had showed the ability of the people – students, farmers and street vendors – to reclaim power from their leaders. He also welcomed the recent election in Myanmar and offered his warm congratulations to the Burmese people, Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. He concluded with a quote from Abraham Lincoln about the enduring power of the people.

Mr. S. MIRSKIS (Latvia) commented that parliament's powers were decreasing in most States around the world, a problem that had been exacerbated by the financial crisis and resulting budget cuts. He referred to a poll in 2011, which showed that since 2008 in particular the level of trust in parliaments and governments had declined. There was a widespread view that governments and parliaments were not receptive to people's opinions or did not spend and manage funds wisely. Political parties suffered from even lower levels of trust, because they made lavish promises during elections campaigns, which they neglected to honour after being elected. He also referred to a study which showed that three out of five Europeans did not want to participate in European Parliament elections because candidates did not fulfil their promises.

Many citizens - 57 per cent on average - were dissatisfied with politics. That was a serious problem for democracy. Old forms of communication were insufficient. Social networks and the Internet should be used to survey the views of the public. Reforms to the legislative process had sought to bring the public closer to parliament. For example, persons over 16 could now request legislation and signatures for proposals could be collected electronically. Parliamentarians had to obey the will of the people.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland) said that it was important to use the IPU as an opportunity to learn about best practices in participation. It was important that political leaders did not lose touch with their electorate. Parliamentarians had to be the link between the public and the government. Governance had to be open in order for trust to develop. Finland often appeared at the top of many international league tables, including for education. That had been achieved through respect for human rights. All countries had to find their own path but respect for human rights was paramount. Parliamentarians had to listen to the public but also respect the rights of minorities so that they could live without the fear of persecution.

Mr. N.S. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka) believed that Sri Lanka had a vibrant democracy that had developed from the original British constitution. The country had a proportional representation system. Its economy had developed well over the years and many human development indicators were good in comparison to its neighbours. Insurgency in parts of the country by the Tamil terrorists had caused great damage and led to the deaths of many politicians. However, the people had stood behind democracy and terrorism had been eradicated. Sri Lanka should be commended for that. The country was improving on a number of fronts, including food security and infrastructure development, which was delivering benefits to the people. Those had been achieved without much support from the international community. Sri Lanka had met nearly all its MDGs. After 30 years of terrorism, there was a focus on reconciliation and reconstruction in an effort to bring people together. The Arab Spring had turned into an Arab Winter. Developing countries should be wary of their former colonial masters.

THE PRESIDENT introduced the Vice-President of Uganda, who was an eminent lawyer who had spearheaded reforms in Uganda.

**Address by His Excellency Mr. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi,
Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda**

Mr. Edward Kiwanuka SSEKANDI, *Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda*, extended a warm welcome to all delegates and officials to Uganda.

On 30 June 1889, the first IPU Assembly had been held in Paris. Since then, there had been 125 Assemblies held in many countries around the world. Uganda was extremely proud to host the 126th Assembly and to welcome delegates from over 150 countries, who would deliberate on many important issues that currently faced the world.

Sir Winston Churchill had once described Uganda as the "pearl of Africa". Since then, the country had achieved independence from Britain on 9 October 1962. The first 25 years of Uganda's post-independence existence had been marked by turbulence, including economic decline, social problems and political turmoil. However, in 1987, a new government had taken power and had established democratic institutions, good governance and policies which had promoted economic growth. In October 1995, a new constitution had formally established the separation of the powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. All three branches of government were independent from each other and were respected and trusted by the population.

The Government was committed to meeting challenges by promoting the interests of young people and women. Women were represented in key areas of government and held important positions in wider society. Uganda had a woman Speaker of Parliament and was the first African country to have a woman Vice President.

Parliament had worked hard to increase the engagement of its citizens. It had achieved that through the promotion of public meetings, workshops and hearings across the country and in a variety of locations. Both the Ugandan Government and Parliament were committed to good governance and the maintenance of democracy, while recognizing Uganda's unique history. Parliament included a diverse range of interests. Six parties were currently represented in parliament and they all contributed to the effective oversight and scrutiny of the executive.

Uganda was committed to playing a role on the international stage. The country had not stood aside during the apartheid era in South Africa. In the 1990s Uganda had worked to end the genocide in Rwanda. Uganda was at the forefront of efforts by the African Union to improve the situation in Somalia. There were 5,000 Ugandan troops deployed in Somalia with the aim of achieving stability in that country. Uganda would always consider its neighbour's problems to be its own.

Global challenges required coordinated solutions. Parliaments should work together effectively on the world stage and the IPU had provided a good example of what could be achieved. Although Uganda was proud to host the 126th Assembly, the IPU should urgently consider holding Assemblies in African countries more frequently. To date, only eight African countries had hosted IPU Assemblies.

Delegates were encouraged to visit the many beautiful attractions that Uganda offered.

Launch of *Global Parliamentary Report*

Joint publication with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The PRESIDENT introduced Mr. Abdelwahad Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mr. A. RADI, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the *Global Parliamentary Report* was devoted that year to representation: how relations between citizens and parliament had changed over the years, what citizens expected, how those expectations had changed, and if parliamentarians were able to meet those expectations. The Report sought to illustrate parliaments' contribution to democracy and help strengthen those institutions and make them more efficient. It identified problems and proposed solutions. It was the fruit of 18 months of work based on the responses of 70 parliaments, interviews with 69 parliamentarians and a survey conducted among 600 others.

Parliamentarians must strive to be closer to citizens. They were the primary intermediary between citizens and governments, yet they were often perceived to be closer to the executive. It was up to parliaments to show that they were receptive to citizens, and that they could hold the government to account on behalf of citizens. Members of parliament must continuously develop their working methods, consult citizens more during the legislative process, and help them to better understand what parliament did for them. In short, they should practise people-centred politics. Each parliament was accountable at the individual level: citizens needed to know who was their member of parliament and how their representative made their voices heard. They needed to be able to approach their representatives to make known their opinion or to receive assistance when needed. New relations with citizens had to be developed to convey higher up the chain the information received through contacts with them, thus feeding it into the legislative process.

Parliaments were resilient: they had proven their ability to adapt to a rapidly changing society, but they must do more to keep up with changes. The Report provided some insights into how to do that. The IPU would make use of the Report to strengthen parliamentary institutions and build their capacity to effectively represent citizens. He appealed to each and every delegate to use the tool in their parliament and in their meetings with their constituents.

Ms. R. GRYNSPAN, *Associate Administrator of the UNDP*, said that she was honoured to launch the *Global Parliamentary Report*, a joint publication of the IPU and the UNDP, which together represented the network of global parliamentarians. The aim of the Report was to promote better governance across the world.

She said that the extent of cooperation in the preparation of the Report was evident. The IPU and UNDP had benefited from the input of over 650 parliamentarians, including 69 in-depth interviews, and information from over 65 per cent of the world's parliaments.

She believed that the Report could support parliamentarians by gathering innovative experiences and practices that could connect them with citizens around the world. She noted the increasing demands on governments and parliaments to demonstrate transparency and to allow citizens to participate in and influence their decisions. She praised the achievement of the MDGs on extreme poverty and access to safe drinking water, and stated that the aim of seeing every child enrolled in primary school was within reach. The reduction in deaths caused by tuberculosis and malaria, and in new HIV infections, was also significant. Further efforts would be needed to consolidate these and other gains, given the threats posed by the financial and economic crisis, the volatility of food and energy prices and the recurrence of natural disasters.

The role of parliamentarians was key: they shaped democracy, passed laws and set the fiscal parameters. UNDP was working closely with parliaments to make democracy more people-centred. Parliaments were the principal forum for airing issues of public concern, and they had three core functions: legislation, oversight of the executive and representation of the people. The diversity of parliamentary systems around the world reflected the cultural and historical contexts of different countries. Clearly there could be no one-size-fits-all modus: the Report provided information on the different ways in which different parliaments worked.

The global average of women holding parliamentary seats was still far from the target of 30 per cent set in the Beijing Declaration. Concerted efforts were needed to increase the representation of women, ethnic minorities and other excluded groups. She noted, however, that some countries in Africa had some of the highest levels of women's participation in parliaments.

UNDP stood ready to support the efforts of parliaments around the world and hoped that the Report would stimulate productive debate on the best way forward.

She concluded by thanking the Report's author, Mr. Greg Power, and his team for their valuable work, and the other collaborators on the project.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Gynspan for her speech and added that some African countries had already crossed the 30 per cent threshold set in the Beijing Declaration.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the report had represented a serious undertaking for the IPU and UNDP, bringing together their respective strengths in order to assist parliaments. He added that the author of the report was available to speak with delegates, and it was hoped that meetings and workshops would be set up. The Report belonged to the Assembly, because it was based on information from parliaments and parliamentarians from around the world.

The Report had found that the average MP was 53 years old and male, which pointed to the lack of diversity in parliaments and the fact that many citizens did not see themselves mirrored by their representatives. The overall presence of women in parliament was under 20 per cent and that figure was increasing too slowly: the 30 per cent threshold would be reached in 2032, and parity between men and women would not be reached until 2072. The average age of women in parliament was 50 years and that of men was 53 years. Of parliamentarians around the world, 28 per cent were from the liberal professions, 19 per cent were from the private sector, 18 per cent were from politics and the public sector, and 12 per cent were from the education sector. Over half of the members of parliament surveyed saw their most important role as law-making, but many of them also felt that citizens saw their main responsibility as solving constituents' problems. That pointed to a problematic conflict in perceptions.

Parliamentarians were under significant pressure: elections were no longer sufficient to ensure accountability. Citizens demanded ever more transparency, particularly through the Internet and television, and were no longer content to wait four to five years to have their say.

There was tension between the national and local roles of members of parliament. Over 60 per cent of parliamentarians globally spent 60 hours per week working on constituency issues. That fact had to be dealt with. It was important that local constituency knowledge was fed into the parliamentary process. There were many ways to work with constituents that had electoral benefits but there were also costs associated with such work, not least the funding of constituency offices. Controversies surrounded Constituency Development Funds. The Report described the need to engage with citizens and the need for parliaments to be open and accessible. Engagement could take many forms such as through the media, the Internet, and the use of parliamentary meetings in different regions. Public consultation and contributions to committee inquiries also had a role to play. The challenge was to ensure that public feedback was acted upon. The Report showed that parliaments were resilient but that they had to evolve in a planned manner. Change driven by crisis made reform less effective. Reform also had to recognize the changing role of members of parliaments. The Report was available in a number of languages on the IPU website.

THE PRESIDENT thanked the Secretary General for giving an overview of the Report, which was an excellent compendium of best practices. She was glad that many Ugandan reforms were recognized as useful.

The sitting rose at 12.55 p.m.

SITTING OF MONDAY 2 APRIL 2012

AFTERNOON

The sitting was called to order 2.40 p.m. with Ms. R. Kadaga, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda**General debate on the overall theme of
*Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap****Resumption of the debate*

Mr. D.A. BOURHAN (Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on - IPU-IGAD) said that he was very honoured to address such an august gathering. He brought greetings from IPU-IGAD, on whose behalf he thanked the Government and friendly people of Uganda for the warm welcome and impeccable hospitality they had extended to delegates since they had arrived in Kampala. He congratulated the National Assembly of Uganda, which was a member of IPU-IGAD, for its excellent organization of the 126th IPU Assembly.

IPU-IGAD brought together the legislative assemblies of the IGAD Member States, namely: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and very shortly South Sudan. All those countries were located in the eastern part of the African continent, along the shores of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and formed what was known as the Horn of Africa. IPU-IGAD's purpose was to promote unity and strengthen cooperation between its Members' parliaments. It was established based on the will of the Heads of State and Government of the region in a bid to foster the socio-economic and political integration of all those States, to the benefit of the people concerned.

The theme of the current Assembly *Parliament and people: Bridging the gap*, was very topical. It reminded all of the need to find solutions to problems encountered throughout the world to varying degrees by the institution of parliament, which must remain the cornerstone of democracy. Democracy was a universal value, not the exclusive preserve of any continent, region or country.

To bridge the gap between parliaments and citizens, communication was of paramount importance. Yet the means of communication differed greatly from one continent to another, and from one region to another. On the African continent in general and in the Horn of Africa in particular, where the majority of the population lived in rural areas, radio was the preferred medium for informing citizens and allowing them to follow the work of parliament. Television, the press and new technologies could ultimately complement that medium. The Internet would help set up interactive forms through which citizens could regularly question their member of parliament without having to move an inch. Such forums promoted transparency. That required parliaments to strengthen their communication service and their relations with the media.

The other items on the Assembly agenda, such as the transition to democracy in North Africa, promoting and practising good governance and improving women's and children's health, were also of great interest. In conclusion, he wished the Assembly every success in its work.

Ms. M.Â. BRAGANÇA (Angola) wished the 126th IPU Assembly fruitful debates. The event was being held in an African country, which attested to the will of African people and governments to consolidate democracy and promote peace and development in partnership with other countries.

Parliament was the cornerstone of democracy; governments must meet the aspirations of citizens by conducting realistic and transparent public policy. Election programmes should not only serve to mobilize voters during campaigning. They were a commitment to citizens to improve their living standards. Only transparent, efficient and participatory governance could strengthen the link between governments and citizens. Parliament acted as the conduit and expressed the will of the people by scrutinizing the executive. Members of parliament should therefore maintain constant contact with citizens who, through their free vote, chose their destiny. Securing the trust of citizens was a sure way of narrowing the gap that sometimes existed between them and parliamentarians. The latter must remain in close contact with voters in their

constituencies and through their oversight of government action in the interest of the people. The use of new information technologies was one way of establishing that contact.

In Angola, following decades of conflict, democracy was slowly taking root. The Angolan Parliament had recently amended the law on the legislative process with a view to strengthening its oversight of government action. For its part, the Angolan Government was conducting pro-people public policies: a strategy to combat famine and poverty, support for small enterprises, a *Housing for all* policy, and social policies in general. General elections were scheduled for December 2012, and should help the country continue on its path to progress and development.

She was sure that the Assembly would have fruitful debates and that the IPU would assist parliaments in strengthening their capacity to act and fulfil their mission.

Mr. R.D. VIVAS (Venezuela) brought greetings from the President and of the National Assembly of Venezuela to the people of Uganda and thanked them for their warm welcome. In Venezuela, bridging the gap between parliament and the people had been illustrated through the shift from the concept of representative democracy to participatory democracy under the 1999 Constitution. That change was transforming the State, establishing the people as the leading entity. There was a structure for popular participation involving direct access to the decision-making bodies, and the possibility for the people to develop their own laws. He praised the values of emancipation, solidarity and equality under the Bolivarian Revolution. That system was a bulwark against the capitalist model, which guaranteed inequality and injustice. The National Assembly communicated with the people through television, radio and social media.

Ten years ago, the coup d'état in Venezuela, which had been supported by the United States, had been overcome: the people had taken back power and reinstated President Chávez. He rejected all foreign intervention, a recurring practice by the United States, and emphasized his belief in self-determination. He rejected US interference in Syria and Iran, and its complicity in events in Palestine. There must always be mutual respect between States. He called for an end to imperial interference in the South American region, extending his support to his Cuban brothers and sisters and supporting Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands/Malvinas. He would remain alert to attempts against the independence and the will of the Venezuelan people. He concluded by thanking the organizers of the Assembly.

Mr. R. León (Chile), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. M. EROL KLIC (Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Member States, PUOICM) thanked the Assembly for inviting the PUOICM to participate. There were difficult economic conditions around the world, with many transformations taking place. It was important for parliaments and peoples to bridge the gap in order to soothe tensions.

He reaffirmed the right of States to develop nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes. He criticized the expansionist settler policy, which was exacerbating problems in the Middle East, and called for a change in the status of the Holy City. He welcomed the Human Rights Council's investigation into the establishment of the settlements, advocating tolerance, compassion and the rejection of violence, particularly on the grounds of religion and race. He also underscored the distinction between terrorism and the right to legitimate resistance against the occupation and colonization of peoples' homelands. He concluded by welcoming the commitment, expressed at a recent conference in Indonesia, to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

Ms. S.O. HONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that parliament spoke for the collective will of the people. His country considered its citizens as the masters of the State. Kim Jong-il took steps to ensure that State institutions served the people. All deputies had to learn from local people, who could be frank with them. The leader, party, army and people were one and were working to improve the lives of the people. Korea would be reunified. The Republic of Korea had spread false rumours about its northern neighbour and their comments

should be rejected. The satellite launch that had been mentioned was peaceful. Its launch would be transparent and in line with international law. Any attempt to stop the launch would be an act of aggression against his country.

Mrs. M.T. ORTUÑO (Mexico) believed that parliamentarians had to remember that they were citizens first. Government was only as legitimate as the power conferred onto it by the public through elections. Transparency and accountability were required. Citizens struggled to engage with the parliamentary process for a number of reasons. Mexico was seeking to become more transparent by increasing access to parliamentary information through the media, and by explaining how decisions had been taken. Such transparency could help to address the poor reputation of parliamentarians. True leaders used their skills to listen to the people but then took the right decision even where such a decision was difficult.

Mr. A. LINS (Brazil) described how Brazil provided information about the parliamentary process. The parliament's website was receiving 20,000 hits per day and social networking was becoming an important educational tool for children between the ages of seven and 12.

The Brazilian Parliamentary Ombudsman's main role was to act as a conduit between parliamentarians and citizens. Citizens were able to suggest improvements to legislation, make criticisms of government policies and request inquiries into matters of public concern.

The Chamber of Deputies had recently established a Committee on Participation with the aim of encouraging citizens to take a more active part in the proceedings of parliament. The group comprised representatives of NGOs, trade unions, and concerned individuals. The Committee was empowered to table amendments to bills and to make legislative proposals.

Taken together, the recent reforms by the component bodies of the National Congress - the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate - had undoubtedly brought parliamentarians closer to the citizens of Brazil.

Mr. J.D. NTAWUKULIRYAYO (Rwanda) said that he was delighted to be in Uganda, which had been such a good and close friend to Rwanda in recent years.

The theme under consideration was not only key to improving the democratic process but was also very important in stimulating much needed economic development in Africa. The Rwandan Parliament was an essential democratic institution of the country. It expressed the will of the people, made laws, provided scrutiny of government and was a forum where topical issues of the day were discussed. Citizens had high expectations of politicians because they expected them to provide solutions to problems in their daily lives. It was therefore vital that politicians were sufficiently close to the citizens that they represented.

The Rwandan Parliament had become more confident and democratic in recent years. There had been significant investment in improving parliament's communications with citizens. Most notably, the Rwandan Parliament website had been established to provide information for parliamentarians and, more importantly, to inform the public. The website supplied a great deal of information about the work of parliamentarians, which was relevant to the concerns of the people.

All procedures were recorded and made available on the parliamentary website. In 2011, the parliamentary radio station had been established. Significant parliamentary debates were also broadcast live on television. Recordings of business conducted in Standing and Oversight Committees were also recorded and broadcast on television. Parliament also published a newspaper, which provided a weekly summary of the activities of parliamentarians. Since 2009, parliamentarians had also held regular open days, where the public was free to make representations about their concerns. As a whole, the measures described had made the work of parliamentarians more transparent and relevant to Rwandan citizens.

Mr. U. HOLM (Sweden) said that democracy was a universal value system. It was not owned by an individual country or by a group of people. It was owned by all citizens of the world. Democracy was based on self-determination and universal values of fairness, while respecting national characteristics.

Sweden enjoyed a relatively healthy democracy, where all sections of society were represented in parliament. Nearly 50 per cent of parliamentarians were women - a figure that compared favourably with most parliaments in the world.

It was vital that parliaments were open and transparent and that the voices of all segments of society were heard. Parliamentarians must guard against becoming removed from the people they represented. Recently, the government had suggested that the pension age in Sweden should be raised by 10 years. Part of the resulting outcry in the media and in public opinion was caused because the proposed change would not apply to parliamentarians. All parliamentarians should live and abide by the same rules that applied to the citizens they represented.

Parliamentarians must also ensure that they engaged with all people, including women, lesbians, gay men and ethnic minorities. The Swedish Parliament was particularly concerned about the proposed anti-homosexuality legislation that was currently being discussed in Uganda. Sweden would deplore the implementation of such legislation. All citizens should be respected and valued regardless of their sexuality. However, over 70 countries in the world had implemented similar discriminatory legislation against homosexuals.

The Arab Spring in 2011 had been invigorating for all democrats. However, Egypt and Libya faced great challenges ahead. The IPU and other international organizations should offer support to those countries in their transition from dictatorship to democracy.

The situation in Syria was a cause for great concern. The international community should make a greater effort to provide a peaceful solution to the terrible situation in that country. President Assad should in turn immediately admit UN staff to Syria, where they should be allowed to work unhindered.

Access to uncensored information was the lifeblood of democracy and the key to undermining the rule of dictators. All parliamentarians must work to protect a free media and take advantage of the opportunities that new social media in particular provided. Transparency was the best safeguard of democracy.

Mr. P. BIERI (Switzerland) on behalf of his delegation, thanked the Ugandan people for their warm welcome and excellent organization of the 126th IPU Assembly. As custom would have it, speakers should start their intervention with acknowledgements and those he had just expressed were particularly sincere because the Swiss delegation still had vivid memories of the Herculean task involved in organizing an IPU Assembly. Switzerland had welcomed to Bern the world's parliamentary delegations in October 2011 for the 125th IPU Assembly. Uganda had taken up the flame in an exemplary manner.

In all political systems, there was a real risk that members of the executive – and of the legislature – remained so long in power that they forgot the genuine concerns of citizens. In the long run, a "political class" in the negative sense was created, within which the authorities had neither the capacity nor the will to engage itself for the people and take into considerations its aspirations.

Yet democracy was not immutable. On the contrary, it should be able to change and adapt to needs. In Switzerland, that dynamic existed for a long time and was the linchpin of a system that had and still made it possible to narrow the gap between politicians and citizens. That system was based on two specificities.

The first was the federalist structure of Swiss democracy. Federalism was the cornerstone of the Swiss democratic model. That system conferred the greatest autonomy to the different regions or cantons, which were themselves divided up into communes, that made up the Swiss Confederation. That hierarchical structure of authority abided by the principle of subsidiarity. In other words, only when the communes or cantons were unable to accomplish the tasks delegated

to them that the Confederation intervened. For the Confederation to be able to legislate in any given area, it had to be authorized to do so by the Constitution. That was also the only way of delegating power to the national authorities; in all other cases, the cantons were sovereign.

Thus, it was within the communes or regions that direct participation in the decision-making process took on the greatest importance. The idea was to attribute the widest possible powers to those administrative units, in particular by allowing the people to have their say on financial, fiscal and budget matters. When citizens could already determine in their commune what tasks fell to the community and what resources it disposed of, they were able to shoulder their responsibilities more easily.

The second specificity of the Swiss system was the direct participation of citizens in the decision-making process at the federal level. Swiss citizens could bring into question the decisions taken by the parliament. If they collected 50,000 signatures, they could request a referendum through which the people would accept or reject definitively the decision of the parliament. If they collected 100,000 signatures, they could organize a popular initiative aimed at amending or supplementing the Constitution. In that way, the people could propose new provisions.

The people regularly made use of those possibilities: each year, up to four dates were set for federation elections, when the people voted on referendums and initiatives. Those went hand in hand with parliamentary elections, which featured in all democracies.

Those two instruments – the referendum and the popular initiative – were strong features of Swiss politics, not only because of the decision-making power it conferred onto citizens, but also because they served to keep the parliament in check. The parliament was well aware that a group of citizens could challenge any decisions it took or could legislate in its stead if it failed to do so. Those instruments, therefore, had a direct impact on the work, conduct and thinking of members of parliament, who were bound to remain constantly attentive to the mood, demands and aspirations of citizens.

There were, of course, other ways of bridging the gap between parliament and people. After all, a healthy democracy was based on many other pillars that those he had just mentioned that were specific to Switzerland. The integrity and independence of parliamentarians, a transparent electoral system, freedom of expression and freedom of the press were but a few.

The onus of defending democratic principles was on all parliamentarians, who must work incessantly to uphold them, whether their country was large or small, and whether their experience with democracy had been recent or long-standing.

Mr. A. ENSOUR (Jordan) noted that there had been instability in the Middle East for more than a century and occupation by Israel of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for nearly 50 years. The Israeli nuclear threat, which consisted of ten bombs or one for each Middle Eastern capital, contributed to the arms race and caused great concern to countries in the region. It would not be possible to have true political, social and economic progress in the Middle East without a fair solution to the Palestinian problem, namely the creation of an independent State. Jordan, under King Abdullah II, had made real efforts to reinvigorate peace negotiations, but Palestine remained under the yoke of occupation.

Countries wanted to reinforce the capacity of parliaments to have a successful dialogue with their citizens, so that their views and desires could be expressed. In the Arab region, there was a crisis of confidence between citizens and political institutions, in particular parliaments. It was necessary to recover the trust that had been lost by being present in the street, holding the government to account and passing laws to protect the citizens and guarantee their freedoms. In addition, parliaments needed the resources to understand the real problems of their citizens, which prevented them from fulfilling their ambitions. The Arab Spring was a call to dignity, justice and freedom of expression, which would improve the lives of citizens and bridge the gap between them and their parliaments.

Mr. M. Nago (Benin), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom) said he was delighted to address the 126th Assembly. His country's association with Uganda dated back over one hundred years to the origins of the Ugandan State. In the 50 years since independence in 1962, that relationship had been enhanced, with the two countries being equal members of the Commonwealth. There had been troubled periods during that time, in particular the black period, when nearly 30,000 Asians were expelled by Idi Amin. Many of them had resettled in the United Kingdom and had established their lives there. One of them, Dolar Popat, was present at the Assembly as one of the British delegates, and there were six British parliamentarians of Ugandan origin in total.

There was often a lack of engagement by people in politics, particularly among young people. That was reflected in low voter turnout at elections. It was necessary to embrace new technology such as the Internet and social media to address the gap between people and parliament. Politicians needed to be passionate about engaging with the electorate and decisions needed to be the people's decisions if the citizenry was to feel true ownership of them.

It was important that the public was part of every decision. Achieving that would ensure genuine parliamentary democracy.

Mr. V. POTUPCHIK (Belarus) said that in the context of the Arab Spring and wider public protests it was important to bridge the gap between parliament and the people. In addition, it was important to balance the power of State institutions with the public. There had to be public involvement in decision-making at all levels of government. A variety of communication measures were undertaken in Belarus to engage the citizens in the parliamentary process, including the establishment of a telephone hotline. Recent changes had also increased the public's direct involvement in law-making through petitions which had, in a number of cases, led to changes in legislation. Standing Committees were also taking evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society. The Council of the Republic was seeking to improve regional government and coordination with the regions. Parliamentarians were participating in outreach exercises in the regions to hear the views of isolated communities. There was a growing use of mass media to enhance the transparency of the parliamentary process.

Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. S. ABDULRAHMAN (Bahrain) said that since 2007 the Kingdom of Bahrain had seen serious challenges to the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. Bahrain had been in the process of political reform but foreign influence led to violence in the country. The Government had little choice but to enforce the rule of law. Since then, a national dialogue had been launched to debate reforms along political, human rights and social lines. That was an important step in addressing the crisis between the people and the government. The process was ongoing and in November 2011, a national committee had been established to oversee the implementation of the dialogue recommendations. Those recommendations included the prosecution of military personnel involved in human rights violations and the introduction of new legislation on the protection of victims, witnesses and experts. Other countries facing political instability should respond to the will of the people. However, they should also be able to address internal instability.

Mrs. A. KABORÉ-KOALA (Burkina Faso) said that, in a global context of a democratic deficit, the resurgence of trouble spots and natural disasters caused by climate change that only compounded the crisis, the theme of the debate brought into question the role of all parliamentarians in society. All members of parliament had an implicit mandate to oversee government action. People were time and again victims of the multidimensional crisis that affected the world. Parliamentarians must support their government when it sought to mitigate

the negative effects of that crisis, which jeopardized economic recovery and development. Fortunately, the most recent World Bank report on poverty reduction gave reason to be hopeful.

International solidarity, expressed through South-South and North-South cooperation for development, must prevail over the selfishness of States that caused them to look inwards. Through its efforts the international community must improve its performance on the MDGs by 2015.

Nations of the South wished to live decently and in peace, something that the international community had a hard time guaranteeing. Everyone would have wanted the 21st century to be one of peace and prosperity but that remained wishful thinking as trouble spots persisted. Disenchantment was setting in as global governance appeared impotent and dictated by the interests of the most powerful. Parliamentarians must play their role fully in national and international plans to oblige global governance to meet, as a matter of priority, the legitimate aspirations of people instead of contenting itself with managing the interests of those who were powerful enough to impose them on others.

Parliamentarians, who represented the people, had a responsibility to legislate in all areas that fell under their purview and to oversee government action.

At a time when diplomacy went hand in hand with democracy and brought people out of barbarianism, certain great powers flouted international law in favour of their own interests. People's aspirations to democracy and good governance had been expressed in the Arab world through what was called the Arab Spring, but the winds of change should not destroy everything in their path. It was up to parliamentarians to know the aspirations of their constituents and act to meet them. Intergenerational dialogue would ensure that democracy had a long life and would build a climate of trust in emerging nations, particularly between citizens and parliaments.

To bridge the gap between parliament and people, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso had taken certain initiatives such as setting up a parliamentary audiovisual channel. To date, only the inaugural and closing sessions were broadcast live, with debates being rebroadcast at later times, but that initiative had been very well received. Plenary sessions of parliament had recently been made open to the public thanks to an amendment to the Standing Orders, similar to that of the Standing Committees. Thus, at any time citizens could be informed of current parliamentary proceedings. Furthermore, open days were organized at parliament as well as guided tours, and the National Assembly published a monthly newspaper, *The Voice of Parliament*, which kept citizens informed on a regular basis. As part of efforts to commemorate in 2012 the 20th anniversary of the rebirth of parliamentarianism in Burkina Faso, activities had been organized in 13 administrative centres in regions across the country. Citizens were taking a keen interest in the public conferences organized to that end. It was proof that they themselves were asking for the gap that separated them from their parliament to be bridged.

Parliamentarians should meet the expectations of people that aspired to peace, liberty, prosperity and solidarity, and they would narrow the gap that separated them from citizens and would thus lay the foundations of a solid and lasting democracy.

Mr. R. LEÓN (Chile) said that the President of the Assembly and her officials had extended to all delegates a warm welcome to their country.

The subject of debate was of the utmost importance. The Chilean delegation had come to Kampala to listen and learn about the experiences of other parliamentarians in tackling the issue.

In the past ten years the Chilean Parliament had introduced a number of measures aimed at re-establishing a vibrant relationship with its citizens. All proceedings of parliament were available on its website, including information about motions debated, speeches made by parliamentarians, the wages they earned, the way they had voted and their visits abroad. Since 2011, the Chilean Parliament had been one of the world's few representative bodies whose resources were controlled by an independent body. That reform had caused much astonishment among parliamentary colleagues from many other countries. The idea that parliamentarians

would cede control of their own administration was seen as folly by many fellow parliamentarians.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the reforms had had little effect in changing the attitude of people towards parliament and parliamentarians in Chile. Citizens remained largely apathetic about the political process. The provision of websites and the use of social media alone were not sufficient to bring politicians closer to those who elected them. A bigger problem was clearly the nature of politics and politicians themselves. In 2011, there had been a number of popular uprisings, including the Arab Spring, the Occupy Wall Street movement and the *Indignado* Movement in Chile. Those popular uprisings against the existing political order could happen in any country in the world. The slogan of the *Indignado* Movement in Chile was, "United people advance without political parties". That was a significant message for all politicians and was a very difficult problem to resolve. All politicians, of all political parties, had lost the trust and legitimacy of the people. That legitimacy must be regained or else the whole democratic system would be undermined.

Even the IPU did not always take sufficient account of the views of minorities. The Chilean delegation had supported the request from Argentina at the debate held on the previous day on the adoption of an emergency item, namely the sovereignty of the Falklands Islands/Malvinas 30 years after the conflict between Argentina and Britain. Chile supported the right of Argentina to regain sovereignty over the islands. However, the request for that legitimate debate had been ignored.

Both parliamentarians and the IPU should reconsider how the rights of minorities were upheld in their proceedings.

Mr. T. KÕIV (Estonia) said that Estonia was a small nation with only 1.3 million inhabitants. The people of Estonia and its parliament were relatively close. Citizens were generally active participants in civil society. In October 2007, representatives of third sector organizations had proposed a scheme to address the proliferation of rubbish dumping in Estonia. The following year, over 10,000 volunteers had cleaned up 300 rubbish sites in Estonia in one day. If the government had tried to organize such a venture it would have taken many years and cost the taxpayer a significant amount. Because the work had been undertaken by volunteers, the process was carried out quickly and had cost very little.

Following that event, citizens behaved very differently. Less rubbish was dumped and young people had adopted a different attitude to recycling and accepted the need to protect their natural environment. An international version of the Estonia scheme called *World Cleanup 2012* had commenced on 24 March 2012 and would last until 25 September 2012. To date, 91 countries had agreed to take part in the scheme with more nations expected to join.

Nature had no borders: all were man-made. There was one common ecosystem and everybody was responsible for it. He encouraged delegates to take part in the campaign, and suggested that it would engender a sense of unity, which would help bridge the gap between parliament and the people.

Mr. J.M. KATUPHA (Mozambique) said that Uganda had shown a great commitment to democracy by hosting such a large and complex event as the IPU Assembly, and thanked the Speaker, people and President of Uganda.

The breakdown of the bipolar system of the Cold War, the reordering of the States of Eastern Europe and the transformation of the former Soviet Union had led to a conviction of the supremacy of the capitalist philosophy of western countries. That had caused a state of permanent confrontation, with unilateral decisions being taken by the strongest and a belief of the supremacy of the markets as an antidote to all ills taking hold. Crises had been triggered in the financial markets, in food and oil prices and in other social issues, which had placed some governments in conflict with their voters. That made it difficult for a dialogue to be conducted with the people. Other problems included the housing market in the United States and the

banking sector in Iceland and other European countries. Those problems had exposed the hypocrisy and selfishness of rabid capitalism, and caused a decay in basic human rights such as life, safety, welfare, education, employment and equity in the redistribution of wealth. Rousseau's social contract between the rulers and the ruled had broken down, causing a loss of interest in politics, distrust of politicians, riots, protests and widespread abstentions.

Mozambique had celebrated 35 years of independence and enjoyed multiparty democracy. Parliamentarians should be the spokespersons of the voiceless and promote social justice. By reducing social inequality the gap between the State and the citizen could be bridged. He concluded by urging greater coordination between parliaments through the IPU.

Mr. H. FALLAHAT PISHEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that it had been one year since certain countries in the Middle East and North Africa had sought the right to determine their destiny, following many decades of foreign interference. Those movements had been successful in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, and could bring about the changes sought by the people. It was important that people should be able to choose their own representatives and that the minority should not rule over the majority. At the same time, the rights of minority communities should be respected. He criticized the occupation for 45 years of part of Syria, in spite of the Syrian Government's struggle to liberate the territory. The situation in Syria should be tackled by dialogue and social and political reforms. Foreign intervention, including arming groups or sending in armed individuals, would only exacerbate the situation. He condemned the violation of the human rights of peaceful protesters in Syria and Bahrain. In conclusion, parliaments should support those standing up against autocracy and foreign intervention.

Ms. A. HUBER (Penal Reform International) said that Penal Reform International had recently been granted Observer status at the IPU and was pleased to participate. It was an independent NGO seeking penal reform worldwide in cooperation with governments and other partners. More than 10 million people were incarcerated globally for alleged criminal offences. An estimated 3 million were held in pre-trial detention, some for many years and with no prospect of a trial. Prison terms had a considerable effect on both individuals and families, causing and deepening poverty.

The goals of the criminal justice system should be to increase safety, to punish and to deter. Yet many countries detained people for trivial offences, which caused prison overcrowding. Custodial sentences were not necessarily the best way to make societies safer, and criminal justice systems needed to be reviewed. Studies of restorative justice showed that victims were more satisfied with compensation and apologies than custodial sentences. Such programmes were also more effective at reducing re-offending.

Members of parliament could work on penal reform through their parliament and in their constituencies. The penal system should not focus on revenge or punishment. Her organization had distributed a report on how parliamentarians could assist in the reform of the penal system in their countries.

Mr. A. SI AFIF (Algeria) thanked the Parliament and authorities of Uganda for their warm welcome and excellent organization of the 126th IPU Assembly. That session was being held in a context of popular movements that had swept away political regimes and showed how important it was to meet people's aspirations. The theme of the debate, "Parliament and people: Bridging the gap" was very apt. The Arab Spring and the global financial crisis had repercussions for the political leaders of all countries and was a reminder to all of the need to redefine relations between government and citizens.

The Algerian Government was very aware of the need to enhance citizens' participation in the management of public affairs. That would require moving from, a purely representative democracy to a more participatory form of democracy. Democracy needed first of all strong

parliaments returned after free and fair elections, but it also needed a civil society that was engaged, active political parties and independent media.

Meeting people's aspirations was a permanent challenge for all political parties in Algeria ever since the country had adopted in 1989 a multiparty system. In a historic speech to the nation, delivered in April 2011, President Bouteflika had laid the foundations of a pluralistic and modern State based on democratic institutions and the sovereignty of the people. Parliamentary elections would be held in May 2012 in the presence of international observers. The future National Assembly would be called upon to consequently amend the Constitution.

A number of reforms had already been adopted in a gradual and rational manner with a view to guaranteeing political openness and modernizing the law. Parliament had developed a law on promoting women's participation in politics, the aim being to achieve a target of 30 per cent women in parliament. The next elections would be of particular importance; they would be a standard of sorts by which to gauge the revolutionary reforms that would have been undertaken.

The voice of citizens who took to the streets must be listened to, and the demands of citizens must be translated into laws. Inspiration should be drawn from the more positive aspects of the popular movements that had been observed in different regions. The peaceful settlement of differences was evidently the only way possible and efforts must be made to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of countries in transition, as that often only made matters worse. The only way to solve problems was through constructive dialogue between the different parties. It was only through dialogue that lasting political solutions could be found. In conclusion, Mr. Si Afif expressed the hope that the Assembly would provide an opportunity for all to renew their commitment to the service of democratic ideals and the greater good.

Mr. D. FILMUS (Argentina) said that participation in the IPU was of great significance to Argentina due to its history of military dictatorship. That dictatorship had denied civilians their freedom and led to the death of thousands of people. Democracy had been re-introduced to Argentina 30 years ago. It was important to involve citizens in public policy matters such as responses to the global financial crisis. Policy responses to the crisis were being dictated by global business and banking interests rather than by the will of the people. Parliamentarians had to place conditions on the ability of big business to dictate the response. Failure to address that issue would widen the gap between parliament and the people.

In 2001, there were protests against all politicians in Argentina leading to the ousting of the then government. Trust in the political process had since improved. Argentina was seeking to increase economic equality while also promoting growth. Regional integration was required to deliver growth.

The United Kingdom was occupying the Falkland Islands/Malvinas and had evicted Argentinean inhabitants. Argentina reaffirmed its sovereignty over the islands and noted that direct talks had been rejected by the United Kingdom. There were serious concerns about the presence of nuclear weapons in the region, the exploitation of natural resources by the United Kingdom and the risk of environmental damage. The region needed to be demilitarized. Argentina would use every diplomatic channel available to address that problem.

Mr. J. MIZZI (Malta) was concerned that Malta was unable to face the legislative challenges associated with its membership of the European Union (EU). In particular, there were concerns about the lack of scrutiny of EU law. An expensive parliament building had contributed to the perception that politicians were isolated from the public.

Most of the structures designed to deal with the consideration of European affairs did not work effectively. As a consequence, the Maltese Parliament did not scrutinize European legislation as well as it should.

The Parliament was also poor at scrutinizing domestic legislation. Ministers were largely unaccountable between periodic general elections. In 2011, the Public Policy Institute had

published a critical report of the way that the parliament considered annual budgets. The report concluded that the two-party system mitigated against the effective accountability of ministers. Tribal loyalty invariably meant that ministers did not resign even when it was clear that they should.

The Public Accounts Committee did not provide effective scrutiny of parliament's expenditure because it was controlled by the government. Current ministers served on the Committee and determined its agenda.

The deterioration in the Parliament's performance had continued in 2012. Earlier in the year, the government had only been saved from defeat on a no-confidence motion by the Speaker's casting vote. Since then, the government had not allowed parliament to sit while ministers were out of the country, no legislation had been passed, and there had still not been a vote on the annual budget. As a consequence, the country was unstable, the economic crisis had worsened and parliament was effectively in a coma.

Ms. T. BACKMAN (Iceland) said that democratic values were more widely applied in the world today than at any time before in History. There were more democratically elected governments than ever before and an increasing number of societies conducted free and fair elections.

Democratic values must be upheld by parliamentarians or else the advances made in spreading democracy around the world would be checked. In parliament there must always be open and transparent voting so that the will of the people was represented. All values in society must be protected; failure to do so was often the major cause of civil unrest. In 2011 the Arab Spring had demonstrated that all people valued a say in how they were governed. The current situation in Syria further reinforced that message. Sadly, the international community had proved impotent in addressing the tragic situation in that country.

The world faced a turning point. Climate change was now irreversible and the world had failed to provide a global response to it. All ecosystems in every continent would be affected. It was time to stop measuring human progress by material metrics such as GDP. New measures should be applied to assess the health and emotional well-being of people and the environmental impact of policy. In the future, there would be more instances of wars and violence caused by disputes over access to resources.

Women were most affected by the impact of climate change but they also had the knowledge and skills to mitigate its effect. However, many women were excluded from positions of influence and power in their society. It was a democratic imperative that the participation of women in all levels of society was increased. Iceland had led the way in that respect. Women were proportionally represented in the Icelandic Parliament, 80 per cent of women were economically active and many important positions in society were filled by women. Since 2010 Iceland had been led by a woman Prime Minister. Iceland therefore provided a good example to the world.

Ms. B. BUKIEWICZ (Poland) said that Europe was still coping with the economic crisis that had started in 2008. The economic crisis had, in a number of countries, resulted in tensions between the people and politicians. Politicians had to make unpopular and divisive decisions. People would not accept harsh measures unless they had been involved in the development and implementation of policies and understood their importance. The recent violent protests in Greece and Italy against their government's economic policies had shown clearly the danger of politicians failing to involve their citizens in policy decision.

The Polish Parliament had taken a number of measures designed to provide information about its work to citizens and involve them in the democratic process. Debates were broadcast live on the parliamentary website. Information explaining the background of policies was also provided through that medium and questions from the public about government policies were

encouraged. Effective communication between parliamentarians and citizens was crucial to effective democracy.

Mr. L. GLOWKA (Convention on Biological Diversity) said that the 111th IPU Assembly had adopted a resolution on *The role of parliamentarians in preserving biodiversity*. The IPU recognized the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the principal international instrument for conserving life on earth. Parliamentarians had to work closely with scientists and others. Those collaborative efforts had most notably resulted in the 2010 Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity.

He urged parliamentarians to work closely with the CBD to ensure expedited implementation of the instruments adopted at the 2010 Biodiversity Summit. He was pleased to report that 92 countries had signed the Nagoya Protocol and congratulated three (Gabon, Jordan and Rwanda) for their early leadership in ratifying the Protocol. In addition, he had learned that the Seychelles would be the fourth country to ratify it, and he understood that at least another 13 countries were in the final stages of the ratification process. He hoped that those countries and their parliaments would become champions of the Nagoya Protocol in their respective regions.

He noted that the CBD Secretariat had undertaken a number of in-country parliamentary briefings and had worked with a range of other parliamentary organizations on the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. The CBD stood ready to organize briefings for other parliaments at their request. He concluded by thanking the IPU and its Secretariat for working so closely with the CBD over the previous eight years.

Mr. M. BEE (Suriname) expressed his pleasure at discussing such an important topic. He noted with approval the women in leadership positions in the Parliaments of both Uganda and Suriname.

Suriname was a small country with a young democracy of 36 years. The people of Suriname lived together in peaceful co-existence and parliament represented the variety of groups and ethnicities. It was important that there should not be a gap between members of parliament and the people and that dialogue should be fostered. He stated that parliamentarians in Suriname often met with constituents and he highlighted the information programmes about the National Assembly available on television and radio. He also spoke about the parliamentary website, the availability of parliamentarians' e-mail addresses and public access to parliamentary proceedings. He concluded by discussing the school visits to parliament, which took place on a regular basis, thus enabling school children to become familiar with the work of the National Assembly.

Mr. F. OWONO NGUEMA (Gabon) expressed his thanks to the people of Uganda, whose warm welcome was in keeping with legendary African tradition. He congratulated the Ugandan Parliament on their excellent organization of that Assembly on African soil and congratulated the Speaker of Parliament on her election to as President of the Assembly.

The Parliament of Gabon, over half a century old, had supported the people of Gabon in their quest for greater democracy, justice and prosperity. The people, the executive and the legislature were the three points of a strategic triangle.

In its 52 years of independence, Gabon had come a long way from the one-party regime. One milestone of democratic renaissance was the National Conference that had taken place in 1990. That had initiated deep changes to the democratic system. Today, the country was placed under the leadership of President Ali Bongo, who had only been in power for two years.

The General Debate had dealt essentially with questions of communication, concerted action and decentralization. The parliament of Gabon was tuned into citizens: all its sittings were public and carried live on television and radio as well as on the Internet, because Gabon belonged to the sixth continent, the virtual continent. There was thus an interactive relationship between citizens and the parliament. Members of parliament reported on their activities in their

constituencies, listened to the grievances of their constituents and endeavoured to resolve their many problems.

Parliamentary oversight was changing at a remarkable pace: it was being exercised in parliament and on-site by way of monitoring the enforcement of laws passed by the two chambers and promulgated by the President.

Concerted action was part and parcel of what parliamentarians experienced on a daily basis in their constituencies.

The decision to decentralize, taken 20 years ago without actually being implemented, was a top priority of the current President of the Republic. Gabon had adopted a code on decentralization to devolve State mechanisms and improve the people's living conditions thanks to the gradual transfer of powers from the central administration to local government.

The Gabonese delegation, which identified with the *Global Parliamentary Report*, congratulated UNDP and the IPU on producing such a sterling publication. It should become a working tool.

Lord FAULKNER (United Kingdom) said he was saddened by what the distinguished delegate from Argentina had said about the relations between Britain and his country, particularly after the excellent things he had said about the need for parliaments to listen and work together. The British Parliament had worked hard to promote good relations with the Argentinean Embassy in London and he himself was Secretary of the UK-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group. He had taken part in a successful visit to Buenos Aires under IPU auspices, involving constructive discussions about the future of the islands. The issue of the islands was not about colonialism or exploitation: it was about self-determination, and the islanders had expressed a desire to remain British. Britain had no expansionist designs on the South Atlantic.

There was no evidence of environmental degradation being caused in the Falklands/Malvinas. The United Kingdom followed EU rules on fisheries conservation. It was absurd to talk about UK military expansion. The only military action in the region had been when Argentina invaded the islands. The only eviction of Argentineans from the islands was following the invasion. The IPU was focused on self-determination and it should consider self-determination in relation to the Falkland Islands/Malvinas and their inhabitants.

THE PRESIDENT thanked the speakers and adjourned the debate.

The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL 2012

MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 9.05 a.m. with Ms. R. Kadaga, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda**General debate on the overall theme of
*Parliaments and people: Bridging the gap****Resumption of the debate*

Mr. T. MITSOPOULOS (Cyprus) said that parliaments and parliamentarians should reflect the will of the people. However, in reality, human beings were not perfect and the actions of parliamentarians often became divorced from the will of the people.

The increased diverse and multiethnic nature of society was a positive development. However, diversity also presented challenges to politicians and decision makers. All minorities had a right to be represented in their parliaments and the measure of a strong democratic system was how effectively minority rights were upheld and protected. It was dangerous when the majority of the public believed that their interests had been subjugated to those of minorities. When that happened, social cohesion came under threat.

Elected representatives should uphold ethical norms. They should be considerate to all interests and promote tolerance, respect and non-discrimination. Corruption and nepotism were clearly unacceptable in a democratic system and should be eradicated. The parliamentary system must be transparent and have mechanisms in place to hold politicians and officials to account for their actions.

The world was becoming ever more complex and politicians should think imaginatively about how to engage more effectively with their electorates.

Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. K. PUTTERS (Netherlands) said that the fundamental basis of democracy was that people should be allowed to speak freely and live their lives as they wished. People should have respect for each other and parliamentarians should work to protect the values of respect and tolerance for minorities.

There were three significant threats to democracy around the world. First, free speech was in jeopardy. In the Netherlands and in many other countries, some politicians feared to speak out on many issues because they had been threatened by extremists. Politicians must be courageous and should speak their minds freely or else the interests of the people they represented would be ignored. Second, thousands of people died each day from treatable diseases including malaria and HIV. Medication should be available to all and provided without cost. In countries where so many avoidable deaths occurred the political system was undermined, often leading to instability and divisions in society. Third, many people in the world were not able to live as they wished. The rights of women, gay and lesbian people were under threat. There could be no stable or free society without tolerance and mutual respect. There were proposals in Uganda and Nigeria to make homosexuality illegal and punishable with long prison sentences. That represented an attack on a fundamental human right and was unacceptable. The Netherlands would defend minority rights around the world.

The Dutch delegation came from an old democracy, and he understood and respected the differences in the history and culture of other countries, but even after so many years of democracy he knew that it could not be taken for granted. He concluded by urging delegates to exercise their right to freedom of speech to make the world a better place.

Mr. A. ELZEIN (Lebanon) said that one needed to ask why there was a gap between parliament and people, starting by excluding those parliamentarians who had been appointed rather than elected, because they could never represent the people. A gap was effectively created between constituents and their representatives when the latter passed laws that imposed heavy

taxes on the poor and middle classes and when election laws did not guarantee fair representation. When personal interests prevailed over the public interest, citizens distanced themselves from their representatives. To address that situation, electoral laws should be amended so that all segments of society were represented, an election oversight commission should be set up, members of parliament should not be allowed to hold ministerial posts, and the separation of powers between the executive and the legislature should be guaranteed by allowing the latter to be independent through providing it with the financial and human resources that would put an end to corruption. Citizens would thus restore their trust in parliamentarians if they could enjoy freedom of expression and be able to criticize the authorities.

Mr. S. DJALÓ (Guinea-Bissau) said that he was honoured to address the 126th IPU Assembly and wished to seize that opportunity to give an overview of the situation in his humble country, situated on the western coast of Africa.

Given the global economic climate, Guinea-Bissau was experiencing difficult times that had been made even harder by the sudden death of the country's beloved President, Ms. Bacai Sanha. That had led to some uncertainty, which had had a negative impact in economic, social and political terms. The sudden death of the President had prompted the authorities to organize fresh presidential elections, which represented a new challenge. Currently, preparations were being made for the second round of voting, which should take place shortly. He appealed to the international community to assist Guinea-Bissau in preserving constitutional order.

The parliamentary elections scheduled for November 2012 constituted yet another challenge. They too required good organization. Until then, the electoral process had not been a factor of instability as transparency had prevailed and citizens had reached a certain level of political maturity. High voter turnout was expected at the elections. The Parliament of Guinea-Bissau was nevertheless keen to improve the electoral law in order to consolidate their fledgling democracy in the interest of the people. In addition, legislative measures had been taken to strengthen freedom of the press.

Stability was one of the country's main objectives. To that end, a national Commission on Stability and Development had been established. The country benefited from the support of its diaspora in Europe, as well as the assistance of several friendly countries and various international organizations.

Guinea-Bissau was on the right path but still needed help from both friendly countries and international organizations. Investment must be promoted and the country should be aided in developing its tourism potential.

In conclusion, Mr. Djaló said that he was sure he could count on the support of all in the fight to achieve development and strengthen liberty, democracy and justice.

Mr. T. QUBA'A (Palestine) congratulated the President of the Assembly on her election and offered his support for her endeavours. He also thanked Uganda for organizing the Assembly. It was an honour to address the Assembly on behalf of the Palestinian people, a peace-loving people who were calling for justice and an end to the Israeli occupation. That occupation was racist and worse than colonialism, involving the expulsion of people from their homes and the erosion of Palestinian territories by encroaching settlements. He appealed for the protection of the international community. Year after year, he had addressed the IPU Assembly and resolutions had been passed, calling for the return of Palestinian refugees and for the Occupied Territories to be freed. However, no plan of action had been developed. He therefore suggested that the IPU should modernize and do more than merely adopt resolutions. He noted that those countries that did not pay their annual contributions to the IPU were not able to vote; could the Assembly not impose a similar sanction on countries which did not implement its resolutions? Could they not be suspended? He went on to comment that the resolution to send a parliamentary delegation to Ramallah had not been implemented.

If Palestine failed to pay its IPU contribution, it would not be allowed to vote. However, Israel was not sanctioned for failing to implement resolutions. Palestinians wanted peace, and had given up 78 per cent of their territory. Palestinians wanted recognition by the international community. Palestinian parliamentarians were prevented from working with voters due to restrictions on gatherings. Twenty members of parliament had been imprisoned. The occupation was undermining Palestinian culture. Palestinians did not want to perceive the IPU as a biased forum like other international bodies. He called for support and action from the IPU.

Ms. N. GHOSHAL (Human Rights Watch) said that Human Rights Watch investigated human rights violations worldwide. Its aims were similar to those of the IPU. The organization believed that parliaments needed to defend human rights. They could act as a lifeline to the most vulnerable. However, at their worst, parliaments could undermine human rights. Parliaments should work in line with recognized international human rights. A number of parliaments around the world were planning to introduce legislation to restrict rights, in particular those related to the operation of civil society organizations and sexual freedoms. Parliaments needed to focus on dialogue and building bridges with minorities rather than persecuting them.

Mrs. H. SILHAVY (Austria) said that human rights were central to Austrian foreign policy. Austria believed in the need to protect human diversity. Parliamentarians had to protect all sectors of society. Transparency was important for holding parliament to account. It was important that parliamentarians were held accountable for holding the Government to account.

Political education played an important role in improving the public's perception of parliamentarians. The Democracy Workshop was established in Austria for children between the ages of eight and 14. It educated children about the parliamentary process and democracy. Since 2007, 44,000 children had taken part in that initiative. A youth parliament had also been established. Austria believed that it was important that women had full and equal representation and that political decision makers should empower women in areas such as education, work and politics.

Mr. R. MIGLIORI (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean) said that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) had been born out of the IPU and that it had strong links with the Organization. PAM would establish a permanent office in Geneva to ensure closer a working relationship with the IPU and other organizations. PAM was considering a number of important issues, including youth unemployment and increasing the purchasing power of citizens to deliver economic growth. Its forward-looking programme would focus on renewable energy, in particular solar energy, food security and financial mechanisms. Small and medium enterprises would be a key component of that work given their important role in economic growth. PAM was also working with the United Nations. A recent meeting with the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, had led to dialogue on Syria and other issues.

PAM had reiterated its commitment to international cooperation. The organization would continue to work with the IPU in order to ensure that the interests of the people living in the Mediterranean region were heard.

Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. M. KITT (Ireland) said that Uganda had hosted a very successful Assembly. The Assembly had heard that good governance was key to democracy and economic growth. It was vital that all parliamentarians worked together to uphold democratic values.

Ireland remained committed to supporting overseas development. The Irish Government believed that improving the health of people in developing countries contributed to a stable society. Too many developing countries remained ravaged by HIV/AIDS. Those societies tended to be unstable and unjust. By working through international bodies, including the IPU, treatable

illnesses would be eradicated. "We gain strength when we cooperate" was a traditional saying in Ireland. The IPU and other international bodies should continue their coordinated actions designed to improve democracy and people's well-being worldwide.

Mr. M. PEETUMBER (Mauritius) congratulated Uganda on its 50 years of independence.

All parliamentarians believed in government of the people, for the people, and by the people. However, it was clear that in many countries a large gap had grown between the aspirations of citizens and parliamentarians. That gap could be addressed through the engagement of people in parliamentary activity via traditional media, including television, radio and the press. There were now other means of reaching out to citizens, including the Internet and social media. In Mauritius, parliamentarians had implemented a programme of regular meetings in their constituencies.

The gap between parliamentarians and citizens had grown because there was a perception that parliamentarians no longer addressed the issues that voters cared most passionately about. The major issues facing the world were: poverty, insecurity of food supplies, terrorism and climate change. In addition, owing to the global economic crisis, millions of people, in particular young people, were unemployed and without any prospect of getting a job. The failure of politicians to find solutions to those major problems had resulted in resentment, anger and growing intolerance. Parliamentarians must continue to promote and protect fundamental human rights. There should be no tolerance of discrimination based on creed, colour, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Thomas Paine had argued in the 18th century that parliament was the trustee of the rights of citizens. All democrats would agree with that statement. The IPU should reaffirm its commitment to the pursuit of universal well-being, freedom of speech and peace between nations.

Mr. M. MANWAU (Papua New Guinea) said that the 126th IPU Assembly had been very successful in providing a forum for discussion of how parliamentarians could become closer to the people they represented. Papua New Guinea was a young and vibrant democracy. The country, however, faced many problems and his delegation had travelled to Kampala to learn from the experience of other delegates on how to preserve and protect democratic rights.

General elections would be held on 27 April 2012 in his country. It was vital that the election would be free, fair and just. The IPU and other international observers must ensure that the general election met the basic standards of a true democracy.

Many commentators had argued that there was widespread corruption in Papua New Guinea. The 89 electoral districts in the country had received substantial public funds, which were intended for economic recovery. Unfortunately, there was very little evidence of how that money had been allocated and whether people's lives had actually improved as a result. Too many politicians in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere had behaved in a completely unethical manner. Some were corrupt, others failed to keep the promises they had made before their election and had become arrogant and selfish once in office.

Mr. S. HADDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he was addressing the Assembly in the context of demonstrations in Syria calling for political and economic reforms, similar to those that had been recently demanded in other Arab countries. The President had taken immediate measures: the state of emergency had ended, reforms were being put in place and elections would be held in the first week of May. From the start, the Syrian Government had been seeking dialogue but the other parties had refused. External bodies had led to that position being distorted by the media. It was not a peaceful protest; it was a violent uprising sparked by Al-Qaida. There had been explosions in Damascus and Aleppo, with hundreds of victims. Dialogue was the only way out. The State would not permit the destruction of the country and the rule of law had to be maintained. The new Constitution favoured plurality, the rule of law and justice. There would be free and fair elections, not a one-party State. It was necessary to deal with

terrorism and to reject foreign interference. He invited delegates to visit the country and see the situation for themselves.

Syria had suffered from Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights since 1967. Although the United Nations was attempting to deal with the situation through Security Council resolutions, 80 per cent of inhabitants had been forced to leave the territory while the other 20 per cent lived under occupation. The Middle East would not enjoy stability while occupation continued. He concluded by calling for a Palestinian State along 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. E. CASTILLO (Latin American Parliament) brought greetings, as Speaker of the Latin American Parliament, to the Assembly and expressed his gratitude to the Speaker and parliamentarians of Uganda for their hospitality. He welcomed the decision to hold the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito in 2013.

He spoke of the importance of strengthening the relationship between parliament and people, stressing the need for effective checks and balances between the different arms of the State. He emphasized the role of civil society organizations, looking forward in particular to their role at the Rio+20 Conference in June. Such organizations were important platforms through which citizens could participate in the political process. The more policymakers consulted, the fewer mistakes they would make. However, he thought it important to distinguish between different NGOs, ensuring that the more boisterous organizations were not allowed to dominate. He concluded by expressing the hope that the future IPU Assemblies scheduled for Quebec City and Quito would be well-attended and marked by discussions of important issues.

The PRESIDENT called on the second list of speakers to take the floor.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) brought greetings to the people of Uganda. She was from New Zealand, a small country of 4.3 million people in the South Pacific, which had been colonized by the British in 1840 and was still part of the Commonwealth. The mixing of blood which had resulted meant that there were no longer any full-blooded Tangata Whenua people, the original inhabitants. New Zealand had a treaty with its first sovereign indigenous people and was in a treaty settlement process that aimed to address historic grievances in respect of land, language and culture. She was involved in that process as a member of the Maori Affairs Select Committee and there was cross-party consensus. She explained that 75 per cent of the children in her community were Tangata Whenua or Uri, descendants of other Pacific island nations. She acknowledged the recent passing of His Royal Highness King Tupou V of Tonga and called on the people of Tonga to be strong.

The law needed to uphold self-determination and treat all people with respect. Parliamentarians should use their powers for the collective good, to make people happier, healthier and stronger. Marginalized groups did not choose that destiny. The law had to protect them. Members of parliament had to be critical of history and the role of religion in colonization.

Ms. T. TAMURA (Japan) said that Japan had introduced a new strategy for parliamentary outreach ten years previously. Thousands of students had participated in the scheme. However, public confidence in the Diet was still lacking. The electoral system for both the Upper and Lower Houses had to ensure that votes were not wasted. Proportional representation had a role to play. There had also been criticism about a lack of participation by some groups. The Diet was working to improve access and participation in the parliamentary system for groups such as the disabled.

Ms. A. KRÜGER-LEISSNER (Germany) believed that free and fair elections were needed to bridge the gap between people and parliaments. Parties should not be subject to unnecessary restrictions. Parliaments around the world had an important role to play in the international observation of elections. Parliamentary documents had to be available and the public had to

have improved access to parliamentary proceedings. The Internet was crucial in such efforts and its wider use had to be supported. The public was increasingly willing to be involved in the political process.

Mr. A. ABBASI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the economic and financial crisis had put many people in a difficult situation. There needed to be better oversight of the international financial system. A new structure was imperative. The Rio+20 Conference would be a very important opportunity to discuss environmental issues. Iran believed that the role of sustainable development in developing countries had to be clarified.

Illegal and unfair sanctions against Iran had been introduced as a result of baseless accusations about the country's nuclear programme. Other nuclear countries were not open about their nuclear programmes and had even used nuclear weapons in the past. Iran had no intention to develop nuclear weapons. It sought to develop nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Efforts should focus on nuclear disarmament as a whole in other countries.

Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. R. KALISZ (Poland) said that democracy was for all citizens. Poland enjoyed participatory democracy. Since the end of communism, Poland had become renowned around the world for its respect of human rights and the democratic process.

In the developed world, the Internet was used by people as their primary source of information about politics, the economy and the world around them. Young people increasingly used the Internet to interact with each other and to participate in political movements. The world had moved into a new technological age and it was critically important that politicians engaged with those new forms of participation.

Mr. P. MATTHEWS (Ireland) said that Uganda had hosted a very successful Assembly. The IPU was a global community of parliaments comprising 159 Members. For the Organization to have withstood the tests of time and remain as relevant as it did was no easy feat. Following the debate, delegates would return to their national parliaments energized and ready to put into action the ideas they had heard during the week.

The recurrent theme of the week had been the importance of fairness. Parliamentarians were the trustees of fairness on behalf of the people they represented. The world remained in the grip of an economic crisis and in many countries, including Ireland, there was great anger that those who had caused the crisis, including bankers, continued to prosper at the expense of millions of hardworking people. He had no political background; his previous career had been in the financial and banking services. It was shameful that the banks had not been truthful in their explanation of what had gone wrong in the lead-up to the global recession.

The neoliberal economic paradigm had failed. Millions of people in Europe had lost their jobs and had little prospect of gaining employment in the near future. In the developing world, speculation on commodity prices was having a devastating effect, particularly on the poor, for whom the cost of staple items, including food, had risen significantly in recent times.

Ireland had applied for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council. All Irish parliamentarians would be grateful for the support of IPU delegates for its application.

Although the challenge of bridging the gap between parliaments and citizens was significant, there was hope it could be achieved. Politicians should act from the heart as well as apply logic to solving problems.

Mr. P. MUÑOZ LEDO (Mexico) said that the IPU was the epitome of pluralism in action. The strength of the IPU was that it recognized the diversity of political systems around the world.

Parliaments were now largely impotent in the face of world events. Financial markets were currently the most powerful force in the world. The inability of parliamentarians to check that

power had led to the disillusionment of people with politics. The world faced a dangerous situation, where traditional ways of doing politics were seen as irrelevant by millions of people, in particular young people.

Mr. C. WEERAKKODY (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka had a very long history of democracy and freedom, which had been interrupted by an unfortunate period of terrorism. Now that the terrorists had been defeated, the country was reaping the benefits of peace. Sri Lanka was now one of the safest places in the world for people to visit. Foreign direct investment had increased significantly and the economy was growing very quickly. In short, Sri Lanka had benefited from a return to democracy and internal peace. Other countries in the world should learn from the example of Sri Lanka and recognize the fundamental importance of a robust democratic system.

The PRESIDENT thanked delegates and contributors to the 126th Assembly. The issues discussed during the week had raised some compelling issues. It was notable that most delegates accepted the premise that a gap had opened up between the people and their governments. A number of imaginative responses had been made in attempting to close that gap, including the establishment of youth parliaments, outreach initiatives, the use of social media and greater transparency. Parliamentarians would take home with them much food for thought and they should apply the lessons they had learned at the Assembly.

The sitting rose at 11.20 a.m.

Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa

First Standing Committee – Peace and International Security

Sitting of Sunday, 1 April

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the First Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/126/C)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-I/126/C) and, in the absence of any comments or proposals, said he took it that the draft agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held in Panama City on 16 and 18 April 2011

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Panama City, Panama, on 16 and 18 April 2011 had been circulated to all IPU Members as part of the overall summary records of proceedings of the 124th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions concerning the distributed text he would consider the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-I/126/R, C-I/126/DR-rev and C-I/126/DR-am)

The PRESIDENT said that, at the 124th Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. M. Gyöngyösi (Hungary) and Mr. J. Mwiimbu (Zambia), for the subject item to be considered at the present session, namely: *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa*. The co-Rapporteurs had prepared an initial report, which had been distributed to IPU Members and discussed at the 125th Assembly in Bern, redistributed in its revised form and published on the IPU website. He stressed that the content of the report was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, was intended to stimulate debate and provide the background for the Committee's work.

A preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion had also been prepared and distributed to IPU Members in December 2011, and a revised version had been published. Members had been afforded the opportunity to submit amendments to the revised draft resolution until the statutory deadline. In view of the large number of amendment submitted, a drafting committee, comprising representatives of the various geopolitical groups, would be appointed to consider those amendments and compile the final document for distribution. The two co-Rapporteurs would be invited to attend the drafting committee in an advisory capacity.

In order to ensure that the debate was as interactive as possible, he strongly discouraged the reading of prepared speeches and instead encouraged the members of the Committee to participate actively in the discussion and comment freely on the statements made by the various speakers.

Mr. M. GYÖNGYÖSI (Hungary), *co-Rapporteur*, said that following the panel discussion that had taken place during the 125th Assembly in Bern, the co-Rapporteurs had decided to combine their reports into one consolidated document, and had revised the text to take into account the comments made during that discussion. The consolidated report had been used as a basis for the draft resolution.

The report contained an explanation of what constituted good governance and how it could lead to the advancement of peace and security in the world. Emphasis had been placed on the fact that the understanding of “good governance” tended to be based on the western concept of liberal democracy. It was important to note that the standards set by western institutions often did not take into consideration historical, cultural and social differences in other countries. The concept of good governance should therefore be home-grown and should take into account local historical and cultural specificities.

The co-Rapporteurs had studied the definitions of good governance used by international institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF and the European Union, and had noted the common criteria contained in those definition, such as the importance of transparency, the capacity to ensure development, the fair and efficient delivery of justice, the rule of law and free and fair elections with the participation of all. Governance was a critical element of peace and security, and should be based on three main pillars: an effective State, the rule of law and economic progress with equal distribution of wealth across society.

One of the main causes of the Arab Spring had been economic and social disaffection, particularly among the youth in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, where unemployment, rising prices and increasing inflation were having a negative impact. The report emphasized the role of information and communication technologies, in particular how they had contributed to mobilizing the youth and civil society and to making the voice of the people heard. Although the need for swift economic reform and measures to overcome corruption had been determining factors in protests against authoritarian regimes in the region, it was important to bear in mind the different backgrounds of each of the countries in which uprisings had taken place, and the different motivations for protest. In some cases, religious conflict had been a factor, and in others, anti-western sentiment had also been a reason for discontent.

With respect to lessons learned, the report emphasized the need for economic progress in order to tackle unemployment and corruption and to overcome socio-economically motivated uprisings and discontent. The involvement of civil society, independent government watchdogs and trade unions, among others, was essential. A paradigm shift in women’s involvement in political and public life was also required. The report also referred to the statement issued at the 124th IPU Assembly in Panama, on the right of countries to reaffirm their political rights and their future. In that regard, after the transition process, newly established democratic institutions must take into account the specific social, historical and cultural characteristics of the countries concerned.

Mr. J.J. MWIIMBU (Zambia), *co-Rapporteur*, said the co-Rapporteurs had made efforts to incorporate the views expressed during the panel discussion in Bern into the consolidated report, which they hoped would meet the Standing Committee’s expectations. The revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East had provided important lessons for all countries on democracy and freedom and had demonstrated the need for democratic reforms and for governments to provide basic employment opportunities for people. Those events had shown that people everywhere needed democratic governments elected in a free and fair expression of public will. Human rights and the rule of law should be the foundations of democracy, which was the best safeguard for

freedom of expression, tolerance and equality. Extensive and deep-rooted changes were required in constitutions, electoral systems and laws relating to elections and the organization of political parties, the media, the justice system and in people's minds. Efforts must also be made to overcome the political marginalization of women. Women must have equal rights as men. Policies to reduce economic inequality must be enacted, since inequality would lead to disillusionment, and the people would take it upon themselves to ensure that their rights were respected.

He drew attention to the efforts that had been made by the United Nations to ensure a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and said he hoped that change would be achieved in that country.

Although most of the amendments that had been submitted with regard to the draft resolution addressed issues of semantics, he hoped that the revised draft would be adopted by consensus as an expression of support for democracy and sovereignty of States.

The PRESIDENT said that the contributions from both co-Rapporteurs had shown that there was no one-size-fits-all model of good governance. Care should be taken to ensure that good governance was home-grown, and to guard against attempts to simply take a model of good governance from one country and graft it onto another. He recalled that the resolutions adopted by the Standing Committees were not prescriptive, the IPU could merely recommend action on the basis of lessons learned from different countries, and it was incumbent on Members to consider how those resolutions could be adapted for implementation at the domestic level.

The situation in North Africa and the Middle East was evolving. Since 2011, Egypt and Tunisia had returned to constitutional order and were in the process of drafting new constitutions. Before beginning the debate, he invited Mr. Martin Chungong, Director of Programmes, IPU, to apprise the Standing Committee of IPU activities to provide institutional capacity-building assistance to Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG (Director of Programmes, IPU) said that the IPU was making efforts to play a robust role in the promotion of parliaments as institutions of good governance. The IPU supported parliaments by helping them enhance their capacity to perform their constitutional duties. Many parliaments were operating in post-conflict and transitional societies, in which the legal framework was not conducive to good governance. The IPU targeted its assistance to help those countries make the transition to a more democratic system of governance, and had therefore been very active in responding to the key developments in the wake of the Arab Spring, particularly in Egypt and Tunisia.

Over the past year, the IPU had been providing support for the drafting of a new electoral law in Tunisia, where it had recommended a system of proportional representation with gender parity on party lists. Those recommendations had been put into action, and a large proportion of women in the constituent assembly had subsequently been appointed. The IPU would also provide support in the process to draft the new constitution in Tunisia, and in the establishment of a new, strong, modern and gender-sensitive parliament.

Turning to activities in Egypt, he said that the IPU had held consultations with the new authorities and had organized a workshop for senior parliamentary and government staff. A workshop had also been held on developing a system to welcome new parliamentarians and to assist parliamentary staff in preparing to work with representatives of various parties under the new multi-party system.

The IPU also intended to play an active role in Libya, having received a request to assist the transitional parliament and its successor and to promote women's participation. Since the situation in the Arab region was still developing, the IPU expected to receive further requests for assistance in the establishment of new legislative institutions. Its work was also expanding in other parts of the world, such as the Maldives, where a crisis had ensued following the President's resignation. The IPU had dispatched a special envoy to the island-nation to assist with mediation

efforts. A high-level mission would also be sent to Myanmar, which had recently been reaffiliated to the IPU. The IPU's activities in support of parliaments, democracy and conflict resolution around the world had increased considerably, while resources were dwindling. The Secretary General had called for Members to provide support through the provision of additional resources and by urging development cooperation agencies to make contributions, since adequate funding was essential for the IPU to fulfil its mandate to strengthen parliaments around the world.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Chungong's presentation had shown that the IPU was taking action at the grass-roots level. He asked Mr. Chungong whether the IPU could choose to intervene in a country, or whether it only took action when a request had been received from a Member Parliament. He also asked whether all Members could request IPU assistance.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG said that while the IPU did indeed respond to parliaments' requests for support, in many cases the new authorities were not yet aware of the services that the IPU could offer. The IPU therefore had to be proactive to heighten awareness of the types of assistance that it could provide. He confirmed that any parliament could request IPU assistance. On receipt of such a request, the IPU would respond in one of two ways: it would either conduct a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of parliament and issue recommendations for improvement, or it would intervene in a targeted manner to seek solutions to a specific problem.

Debate

Mr. A. AL-DAMKHEE (Kuwait) said that good governance was the main objective of parliaments, and could only come from a democratic system based on transparent elections, without corruption, and where freedom of information and valid economic development plans were implemented by the executive and subjected to independent scrutiny. All peoples must be allowed to enjoy their right to self-determination. When considering the causes of the Arab Spring, it was essential to take into account the conflict between Arab countries and Israel and the upheavals that had beset the region for decades. That conflict hampered peace not only in the Arab region, but also in the rest of the world. The international community had been unable to prevent the atrocities being committed against the Syrian people. The Arab Spring had been triggered by oppression, corruption and lack of democracy. He wished to recall that Islam called for good governance and respect for the dignity and rights of peoples. Islam promoted justice and the sharing of responsibilities in the exercise of power, transparency and the rule of law.

Turning to the situation in Kuwait, he said that the Kuwaiti Constitution was based on democracy and the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Development in Kuwait had gone hand in hand with the establishment of democracy. There was no doubt that protests by youth movements in the Arab countries had intended to achieve improved participation in political life, as well as social and economic development.

Mr. J. JAHANGIRZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that good governance was essential in all regions, and the Standing Committee's discussion should therefore not be limited to the Middle East and North Africa, but rather should also include western countries, where problems were arising from social and economic inequality and injustice. The principle of good governance should be based on experience and the relationships between nations. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa had sent a significant message from within societies, which had demonstrated the importance of paying attention to the aspirations of the people. His country believed that dialogue and respect for fundamental human rights, as well as meeting the basic needs of the people, were crucial for social stability. Foreign powers, which had supported dictatorships in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, had failed to support the people who had risen up against those regimes. The NATO Intervention in Libya had prevented the victory of the people and had caused irreparable damage, including large-scale loss of life

and destruction of infrastructure. Western countries should cease to practise double standards in which they interfered in the sovereign affairs of some countries in the name of promoting democracy, while they neglected people calling for the right to vote in others. Western countries should heed the demands of their own people with respect to social and economic injustice, rather than interfering in the affairs of other nations.

Mr. K. ONISHI (Japan) said that his delegation wished to thank the international community for its support following the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that had occurred in Japan in 2011.

Japan was committed to providing support in the transition to peace through the development of democratic systems. The Arab Spring, recently witnessed in the Middle East and North Africa, had differed greatly from previous religious uprisings in the region; the recent unrest had been based on of the quest for freedom and the rule of law. At the same time, the democratization process must be conducted with due respect for the economic, social and cultural differences between the different countries in the region.

At the most recent G8 summit, Japan had proposed that three pillars should be established for the transition to democracy, peace and security in the Middle East and North Africa. In the context of the first pillar, the development of civil society, Japan had provided more than 100 billion Yen in development aid for agricultural development, poverty reduction and disaster prevention. Under the second pillar of human resources development through education and job creation, Japan had developed vocational training facilities to train industrial engineers and provide higher education in science and technology. It had also sponsored exchange students from the Middle East and North Africa. Under the third pillar, job creation and fostering industry, Japan was making efforts to share its knowledge of green energy and renewables through a variety of projects, including solar energy development programmes in Morocco and Tunisia. The Middle East had a young population, who represented the future.

Mr. J. MOSCOSO (Spain) said that good governance was fundamental, but could not be achieved without democracy and genuine equality in society. Most developed nations in the West believed that transparency and accountability were essential components of good governance. Previous revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa, despite the enthusiasm and energy of the people, had given rise to political systems that had failed to meet their aspirations. It was crucial that new governments should respect the spirit of the revolution that had led to their formation.

His delegation had submitted a proposed amendment to the draft resolution underscoring the need to take into account the religious, cultural, historical and economic specificities of different countries when establishing democratic systems. The only exception to that principle should be with regard to the death penalty, which should be abolished worldwide. Equality for all must be upheld as the bulwark of good governance.

Mr. O.-a. KLAMPAIBOOM (Thailand) said that good governance was crucial for peace and security. Lack of good governance led to conflict and unrest, and threatened peace and security. The Arab Spring had sent a message to authoritarian rulers in the region to commit to economic and social reforms and thus reduce inequality. Democratization and reform were inclusive processes that must involve the whole of society. It was therefore particularly important to guarantee education for all. Efforts must be made to ensure that elections resulted in the establishment of governments that had been chosen by the majority of the population. Thailand was committed to good governance and ensuring participatory democracy and had invested in political reform to support sustainable political development. The Constitution had been amended and improvements had been made to the electoral system, the regulations on political parties and the judiciary. Measures had been taken to increase the involvement of civil society in mainstream politics. The people of Thailand, like the people in the Middle East and North Africa,

aspired to live in a well-governed and democratic society. His delegation hoped that the Arab Spring would lead to greater peace and security in the Middle East and North Africa.

Mr. E.K. GUDFINNSSON (Iceland) said that the term “Arab Spring” had become widely known in all circles. The series of uprisings had begun in Tunisia, and had spread to Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen, and many other countries. After decades of despotic rule in Libya, the revolution had resulted in civil war. In Syria the authorities had reacted violently and the current situation was grave. For too long the Syrian authorities had been using international forums to express their moral superiority, while the reality on the ground had become a bloodbath, and was the worst possible example of tyranny, despotism and terror. The international community, in particular China and the Russian Federation, had failed to respond to the needs of the people of Syria in favour of protecting their own economic and military interests. The international community must seriously consider how to help Syria move forward to establish peace and democracy. Similarly in Egypt, the high hopes that had been raised in Tahrir Square had not been realized, and the situations in Bahrain and Yemen were not completely stable. Despite the perils of revolution, however, the Arab Spring had come just in time, and could afford a real possibility for the development of freedom and democracy.

Mr. ZHA PEIXIN (China) said that the situation in the Middle East was rapidly changing and had attracted the world’s attention. The Middle East and North Africa played a strategic role in global events and any instability there could jeopardize international peace and stability. The international community must respect the claims and demands made by the people in the Middle East and North Africa for change and development and, in particular, for respect for their right to self-determination. China hoped that the violence in the region would end in order to guarantee the security and safety of the civilian population and find non-violent solutions to disputes by developing an inclusive political system.

The international community must uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect the autonomy of the countries in the region. The imposition of sanctions could not provide a constructive solution. The Government of China was following closely the situation in Syria and deplored the loss of life caused by the civil war. A solution must be found. The United Nations should conduct a global assessment of the humanitarian situation in Syria, while respecting Syria’s integrity and providing any necessary assistance. The Government of China opposed military intervention and forced regime change. It welcomed the role played by Kofi Annan and supported United Nations and Arab League attempts to seek a solution. He wished to emphasize that China had no interest in the Syrian dossier, and would remain balanced and fair in its efforts to uphold the values enshrined in the UN Charter and respect the interests of the region. His delegation would support all efforts to find an appropriate and peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. E. TUMA (Chile) said that the IPU had at its disposal a variety of means to influence international awareness. Governance was a fashionable word, which had been bandied about in the context of the Arab Spring, but which should be addressed at the international level, particularly in the context of the United Nations. All UN Member States should be treated equally, and decision-making should not be weighted towards countries that had gained power in the aftermath of the Second World War. The people of all countries must be guaranteed their right to self-determination, and the IPU could play a helpful role in that regard.

While in the Middle East many countries were calling for the right to self-determination, the situation in Palestine remained unchanged. Palestine remained under an occupying force and the people were deprived of their rights to elect their representatives and to occupy their own territory. Good international governance was required to ensure respect for all peoples. The IPU should not avoid discussing the situation in Palestine, and the international community must stop

turning a blind eye to the plight of peoples subjugated by foreign power. Palestine also deserved good governance.

Ms. A KYRIAKIDOU (Cyprus) said that for over a year dramatic changes had been taking place in the eastern and southern parts of the Mediterranean region. Authoritarian regimes had been overthrown and new forces had emerged in economic development and political restructuring, which deserved the international community's full attention. Consideration must be given to how the toppled regimes would be succeeded and, in particular, whether democracy could be established. The challenge facing the region was to ensure the establishment of democratic institutions that reflected the aspirations of the people and the culture of their countries. The IPU could provide assistance in that area. Parliaments should state their willingness to ensure democratic development based on respect for fundamental human rights.

All countries in the Middle East and North Africa had a fundamental role to play in the transition to democracy in the region, and their compliance with international law and relevant UN resolution was critical. Cyprus was a living example of how peaceful and sustainable solutions could only be achieved by respecting international law, guaranteeing the rights of all and hearing the voice of the people. Security was crucial during the transitional phase and effective measures to curb corruption and nepotism and to investigate abuses of power by former leaders could garner support for reform processes. The younger generation must be given the means to be actively involved in political life and be active agents of change. Measures must be taken to overcome the past and move forward with optimism for a better future for the people of the Middle East.

Mr. A. RAZZI (Italy) said that the United Nations had a crucial role to play in helping sovereign countries achieve their goals. All UN General Assembly resolutions were intended to promote peace and respect for human rights. Often, those aims were not met. The situation in Turkey was a good example of the promotion of peace and dialogue. Many western countries required a radical overhaul of their political and democratic systems. Western economic policies were precarious and unemployment high. The future was uncertain and people lived in constant fear of economic default. Redistribution of wealth was required in the West, and corruption must be overcome. Western countries must shoulder their own political responsibilities. The United Nations could not enforce implementation of its own decisions and therefore appeared to lack authority. Parliamentarians must ensure that their governments were implementing those decisions.

Mr. P.-F. VEILLON (Switzerland) said that the report and draft resolution did not pay sufficient attention to the need to address the problems of the past when considering peace-building measures for the future. The fact that security forces had played a role in supporting autocratic regimes must be addressed in the transition to regimes that respected human rights. Switzerland was providing neutral assistance in the reform of the security forces in North Africa. His delegation had proposed two amendments to the draft resolution on the need for compensation for victims and the establishment of a new rule of law with respect for fundamental human rights, and on the need to ensure that security forces were answerable for their actions. His delegation had also submitted a formal proposal for the IPU to take up a discussion on the role of parliamentarians in the oversight of the security sector.

Mr. U. NILSSON (Sweden) thanked the two co-Rapporteurs for having produced a well-drafted text. The upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East had not been expected. The dictatorships in the countries concerned had appeared to be stable, and analysts had not anticipated the considerable changes that had taken place. Although many people had assumed that the time for change had not yet come, change had indeed taken place, and had resulted in considerable loss of life. Civil war was still raging in Syria, and the United Nations had failed to

take any action. The parliamentarians of the world must urge their governments to work to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its mandate to act to protect humanitarian values, particularly since the end of civil war and uprising would signal the beginning of new challenges. Fundamental rights, such as the rights to freedom of religion, thought and speech and the right to vote for democratically elected governments must be enshrined in legislation that could not be ignored. Parliaments must not be able to flout fundamental laws. Independent courts were an essential element of good governance. Fair trial and the right to appeal were crucial. While it was only natural that development in different countries was based on their different cultures, his delegation believed that certain traditions must be questioned if women's rights were to be upheld.

Mr. B. GAULE (Zimbabwe) said that while there was a general agreement on what constituted the values of good governance, there were several definitions of good governance, depending on the national perspective. The transition to good governance required an equal distribution of wealth, the eradication of poverty and the elimination of corruption. Efforts must be made to promote the rule of law, protect human rights, ensure free and fair elections and allow the people to draft their own constitution. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa were powerful illustrations of the possible consequences of a lack of good governance and restraints on the activities of civil society.

Mr. A. CHERRAR (Algeria) thanked the two co-Rapporteurs for their efforts, but said that the term “countries of North Africa” was a colonial term, which would be better replaced by “countries of the Maghreb”. The countries of that region had very different political systems: Algeria was a republic, which had been led by seven different heads of State since its independence; Morocco was a monarchy; Tunisia was a republic, which had only had two heads of State since its independence; and Libya had had a very particular political system. Algeria had a system of proportional representation and had recently adopted a new law on women's participation in politics. Algeria was ahead of many countries that tried to teach lessons on democracy and pluralism.

In respect of the references made to Algeria in the report, he wished to draw attention to a number of inaccuracies, which should be corrected. First, although there had been some demonstrations in Algeria there had not been a revolution. Several notable social reforms were under way, including the development of a new social housing project. Second, unemployment in Algeria currently stood at 10 per cent, not 90 per cent as the report had suggested. The report should also ensure that a clear distinction was made between dictatorships and fragile democracies. Freedom of expression was guaranteed in Algeria. Consideration should also be given to how to address the increasing cases of racism and xenophobia in Europe.

The PRESIDENT said that the facts and statistics mentioned in the report would be checked and, where necessary, corrected.

Ms. M. VAN EETVELDE (Belgium) noted with satisfaction that the co-Rapporteurs had referred, in the draft resolution, to the role of women in the transition to more democratic political systems and the importance of respect for human rights as a fundamental condition for democracy. However, she would have liked to see a specific reference to the role of women in the Arab Spring. She welcomed the fact that the draft resolution recognized that good governance and democracy could not be achieved without gender equality and the equal participation of women in public and political life. Women's rights should not be considered a less important than the socio-economic and political challenges facing the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women must be a central element of reform in those countries.

A democracy must guarantee fundamental rights. Democratic monitoring of the armed forces and law enforcement was also crucial, and should be emphasized in the draft resolution. She wished to underscore the importance of the last three recommendations in the draft resolution, which pertained specifically to the role that should be played by the IPU. The Organization had been a pioneer in defining standards of democracy for parliaments, which could be applied universally and adapted to meet the cultural and historic specificities of each country. The IPU was therefore well-placed to support the democratic processes underway in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa at the parliamentary level. Gender equality was at the centre of all IPU programmes for parliamentary capacity-building. The IPU should also schedule an international parliamentary conference on the new forms of youth participation in politics, in particular through the use of new technologies.

Mr. KADAM (Chad) said that the Parliament of Chad had been reaffiliated to the IPU at the 125th Assembly in Bern in October 2011. Chad had experienced nearly four decades of war since it had gained independence in 1960. The transition to democracy was now underway: a multiparty system had been established, women held 30 per cent of posts in the legislature, and freedom of press, association and speech were a reality. A series of four presidential consultations had been held over the past 10 years to discuss problems and seek solutions. Chad also had good relations with its neighbouring countries, and always supported the promotion of democracy and peaceful transitions of power. His delegation felt that the report should have referred specifically to the double standards applied with regard to wars, and should, in particular, have considered who had the right to decide when to intervene, and to what extent, in the affairs of another country.

Mr. J. ALMEIDA (Portugal) said that the popular movements leading to the Arab Spring had been the most powerful popular influence on politics since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Those changes demonstrated that failed political, social and economic reforms would lead to revolution. For too long the rest of the world had closed its eyes to the repression of autocratic regimes. The uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt had been initiated by the public, rather than by terrorist regimes, and had offered an extraordinary opportunity for the international community to work together to improve living standards, create employment, strengthen democracy and political participation, and ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, all of which would lead to a more stable and prosperous international order.

Reform and the transition to democracy should be led by the people. Parliaments and governments should have the political humility to listen to the hopes and dreams of the people and promote national reconciliation. The two shores of the Mediterranean should come together on a solid path towards cooperation. Portugal was making efforts to foster cooperation with North African countries by encouraging the development of trade relations, and by taking into account the specific vision of each country in the region and not imposing a generalized formula for the transition to democracy. While human rights were universal, political models were specific. The people must be able to choose their future and their decisions should be respected; political processes must be free, transparent and fair.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) said that although the Standing Committee had talked at length about politics, it had forgotten to mention the most important subject in the Middle East: the Arab-Israeli conflict. Many people in the Arab region did not appreciate the use of the term “Arab Spring”, which had not been coined in the region. Those who were expressing their support for the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa had previously supported the dictatorships in those regions. His delegation disagreed with the reference made in the report to anti-western sentiment. The people of the Middle East and North Africa aspired to live in a peaceful and democratic society, with respect for their human rights. They were frustrated by the on-going Israeli occupation that was oppressing the Palestinian people despite international

efforts to promote peace. The report and draft resolutions should pay greater heed to the interference of foreign powers in the Middle East. The peoples of Arab countries must be allowed to be responsible for their own freedom and to benefit from their own natural resources. The international community should express its unequivocal support for the Palestinians imprisoned in Israel: a woman Palestinian prisoner had been on a hunger strike for 46 days without any international support whatsoever.

The PRESIDENT said that the Palestinian delegation should make its concerns known to the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Mr. J. CHISHIBA (Zambia) said that the events in the Middle East and North Africa had served as very important lessons to all countries. Zambia had undergone three changes of government, which had taken place peacefully and democratically. The results of elections had been upheld, and structures had been consolidated. A constitutional review was under way in an effort to ensure the promotion and practice of good governance. Challenges still remained, however, in respect of accountability, transparency and lack of access to information. The international community should support the new regimes being developed in the Middle East and North Africa, and encourage them to recognize that peace and security could only be sustained through good governance.

Mr. S.-H. JANG (Republic of Korea) said that the recent wave of pro-democracy movements in the Middle East and North Africa had demonstrated the importance of governance. Those uprisings had represented an outpouring of aspirations for freedom, which had been suppressed under long-standing authoritarian regimes. The Republic of Korea had made a successful transition from an authoritarian regime to democratic governance in the 1980s, and civil society had played a leading role in that transition. Steady economic growth had been crucial for the development of democracy. Although many challenges, such as income disparity, persisted, the situation in his country served as an example of how good governance contributed to the promotion of peace and democracy, and how democracy constituted a solid foundation for the continuous consolidation of good governance. After the transition to democracy, efforts to promote social equality and good governance should be maintained, and capacity-building programmes were essential.

Ms. S. KARHU (Finland) said that peace, prosperity and equal rights for all citizens were important for all nations. She welcomed the report written by the co-Rapporteurs, which identified all of the key elements of good governance. Good governance meant advancing sustainable development and ensuring that a balance was struck between economic and environmental objectives. Climate change was a threat to development. Good governance must be based on free and fair elections, and equality was crucial. Equal rights and opportunities must be truly equal and guaranteed for all, irrespective of race, gender, sexuality, language and religion.

Ms. G. REQUENA (Venezuela) expressed her delegation's reservations with regard to the definition of good governance used by the co-Rapporteurs, since it required a performance evaluation of governance on the basis of subjective criteria that had been developed in other countries, and was thus contrary to the principle of self-determination. Such an approach could give rise to military intervention by foreign powers in the event of domestic unrest. That intervention caused massive loss of life and destruction of infrastructure and could never be justified. The draft resolution turned a blind eye to western intervention in Libya. Venezuela, therefore, could not support the draft resolution.

Mr. M.A. AL MURR (United Arab Emirates) said that good governance was imperative for the functioning of political systems. Steps must be taken to fight administrative and financial corruption, and legislation must be enacted to that end. Free and fair elections, free of electoral fraud, must be guaranteed. The transition to democracy must take into account the cultural and historical specificities of each country. His delegation supported the proposal to hold an international parliamentary meeting on the role of youth in politics in light of new technologies, since young people were increasingly politically active owing to new developments in the media and technology.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa) said that the Constitution of South Africa guaranteed the protection and promotion of the rights of all people in the country, reaffirmed the democratic values of human dignity and freedom, and guaranteed equal rights for all. Societies that were not built on democracy and transparency were plagued by insecurity. South Africa had a centralized government, in which well-functioning political parties were represented, and an electoral system that guaranteed free and fair elections and universal suffrage. The separation of powers was also guaranteed, and independent commissions on gender, human rights and public protection had been established. South Africa also had a vibrant civil society, and legislation had been enacted to foster good governance and transparency. His delegation supported the draft resolution.

Mr. E. EL-ERIAN (Egypt) said that the successful revolution in Egypt had set an example in the Middle East and North Africa. The autocratic regime had been overthrown and new policies were being implemented with the establishment of a new parliament. Democratic elections had been held, in which 30 million voters had participated. Institutions of democratic governance were being established and a new constitution was being drafted. He called on the world's parliamentarians to support the democratic developments in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa where revolutions had taken place. International conventions aimed at overcoming organized crime, money laundering and corruption must be implemented, and funds that had been misappropriated or pocketed by previous regimes should be returned. All prisoners detained for having fought for their political freedom and their right to an independent State should be released. The reference in paragraph 7 of the report to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel should be amended to read "Tel Aviv".

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) said that her delegation disagreed with preambular paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, which talked about the role of public authorities in creating an environment that was conducive to entrepreneurs. The role of public authorities should be to promote the common good and, therefore, should be to determine how policies should be devised. Preambular paragraph 7 should contain a reference to the origins of grass-roots uprisings. Operative paragraph 1 should include a reference to the need for equal employment opportunities. Operative paragraph 7 should be amended to include a reference to the principle of non-intervention.

Mr. J. OKETTA (Uganda) said that in order for parliaments to bridge the gap between enhancing governance and achieving comprehensive peace and security, consideration should be given to the triggers of civil strife. The uprisings that had occurred in the Middle East and North Africa had been caused by the need to establish good governance and activate all elements of the community to work towards conflict resolution and peace and security as a common social responsibility. The Government of Uganda had adopted comprehensive policies on investment reform and measures to combat corruption. Parliaments had an important role to play in promoting democratic principles and practices to promote all stakeholders at all times. Citizens must be informed in order to be able to participate fully in politics. Steps must be taken to reform the security agenda, particularly since violence and destruction were often based on

ethnic divides, which were promoted by political leaders. No country should have the right to interfere in the affairs of another, and all governments had a responsibility to ensure peace and democracy around the world.

Mr. Ø. VAKSDAL (Norway) said that the Arab Spring had shown that sooner or later all dictators would fall. Lack of good governance constituted a threat to peace and security. Peace and security were at stake in the Middle East. While the most dramatic situation in the region was currently in Syria, that situation of instability could potentially spread throughout the region. There was no doubt that the Syrian regime was responsible for the atrocities that had been committed against civilians. It was regrettable that the United Nations Security Council had been unable to agree a concerted response to the situation. The international community must find a solution that provided support to the people of Syria and enable the flow of humanitarian assistance. Kofi Annan, the United Nations and Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, had called for an end to all violence and measures to ensure that humanitarian aid reached all civilians who had been affected by the fighting. His delegation hoped that the Syrian authorities would respond to that call. Women had traditionally not been allowed a great deal of influence in politics in the Middle East and North Africa. Good governance could never be achieved if half of the population was excluded from political decision-making. Equal participation was essential.

Mr. H.S. KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa had served as a reminder that good governance should be upheld in all countries. All parliaments should respect the independent views and demands of the people, and should be advocates of public opinion. National sovereignty and the right of States to seek a peaceful resolution of internal disputes were fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and must be respected. The Syrian people must be allowed to address the situation in Syria without foreign interference. The army must be the main pillar of defence for the dignity and sovereignty of the country. His delegation hoped that the parliamentarians in the Middle East and North Africa would make active efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Mr. H. RAO (India) said that good governance must be accompanied by transparency and inclusiveness. Public authorities could not deliver good governance without ensuring equal participation for all, transparency and accountability. In order to truly promote the rule of law, all political, social and cultural factors must be taken into account. A system of checks and balances was required to promote equitable development, curb corruption, protect human rights and guarantee that the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable were heard in the allocation of all resources and decision-making processes. The Arab Spring had been rooted in the people's desire to control their political and economic destiny, and had unleashed a new surge of democratization in which good governance was recognized as being central to the promotion of peace and security. Good governance was also crucial for maintaining prosperity, and must be promoted in every country in the world.

Ms. R. BENMASSAOUD (Morocco) said that demonstrations had begun in Morocco in February 2011, following which the authorities had responded to the people's calls for reform. A new Constitution had been adopted, which included components relating to good governance, democracy, gender equality, and the role of civil society. The Constitution guaranteed freedom of expression, decentralization, accountability, transparency and equality. The participation of women in parliament had been increased, and youth representation had also been encouraged. Morocco called for all countries to be allowed to develop their own models of democracy and good governance. The Arab Spring should not exclude Palestine. All parliaments should offer their support to Palestinian detainees and the international community must provide

humanitarian and economic assistance to the people of Palestine to enable true democracy to be built and human rights and fundamental freedoms to be respected.

Mr. S. ALNAMLAH (Saudi Arabia) said that there were both social and economic aspects of good governance. The social fabric of countries must be protected, and there must be solidarity between the rich and the poor. Regular aid and emergency assistance must be provided to those in need, and genuine international cooperation was required, particularly with regard to technology for the development of rural areas. International cooperation must be used to bridge the gap between the most and least developed countries. Dialogue was essential for overcoming problems within regions, between regions and between different sociological groups. A centre for dialogue had been established as a joint initiative between Austria, Saudi Arabia and Spain. The eyes of the world were on the Middle East and the situation in Syria. The people of Syria were paying the price for international inaction. Positive political change in Syria was essential.

Mr. A. GARCÍA PORTILLO (Mexico) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the results of the discussion that had taken place in Bern, and the subsequent changes that had been made to the report. More time was needed to ascertain the long-term effects of the events that had taken place in the Middle East and North Africa. Developments with regard to good governance must be lasting and must become part of the domestic culture. He hoped that the draft resolution would be approved.

Mr. K. DIJKHOFF (Netherlands) said that democracy could only function when everyone had opportunities to participate in political life. Women and young people's participation should be particularly encouraged, to ensure that democracy was representative of all people. Women and young people should be proportionally represented in Parliament. In the Middle East and North Africa many challenges must be addressed at once. The Netherlands wished to offer its support, should it be required. Changes could not be made overnight, and women's participation in politics faced opposition in many countries. Continuous efforts must, therefore, be made to promote equal opportunities for women. The establishment of the National Women's Council in Egypt represented hope for the future of women's participation. Such bodies could advise governments on policy and on how to ensure that the transition to democracy was gender-sensitive. Revolution was not simply a question of power, but also a question of dignity and the protection of the rights of all people. Governments should be at the forefront of measures to safeguard the rights and dignities of all.

Ms. P. LEITÃO BARBOSA (Angola) said that events in the Middle East and North Africa were still ongoing, and had led parliamentarians around the world to consider the need for improved governance. The events in the region had, however, demonstrated the disastrous and harmful effects of foreign interference in the internal affairs of nations. The IPU agenda called for good governance and a better quality of life for all. An active civil society was an important tool for good governance and a means of fostering peace, security and stability. The principles of good governance should be enshrined in legislation and supported by strong institutions that guaranteed democracy, with no place for individualism or corruption. In order to guarantee good governance, Angola had adopted a new Constitution in 2007 that guaranteed respect for dignity and fundamental human rights and freedoms. General elections would be held in 2012, which would consolidate democracy and stability.

Mr. R. PEZ FERRO (Cuba) said that all parliamentarians and politicians must work together as a matter of urgency to support efforts to preserve the sovereignty of States, and protect their independence and autonomy. It was essential that the controversy in the Middle East and North Africa must be resolved by peaceful means, and that the people's right to self-determination must be respected. Cuba had been the victim of repressive policies imposed by the

United States of America and was aware of the suffering caused by lack of respect for national sovereignty. Commercial and financial sanctions had been imposed against Cuba, and insufficient international attention was paid to the situation of Cubans who were being held in United States prisons for having denounced American terrorist acts against Cuba.

Ms. N. ROUSAN (Jordan) said that changes were taking place gradually in the Middle East and North Africa as a result of a popular revolution, the results of which remained unknown. All governments must make efforts to respect international peace and security around the world. The instability in the Middle East had impacted on the whole world. Greater efforts must be made to resolve the conflict between the Arab world and Israel. The Occupying Power was using brute force and weapons of mass destruction. They had destroyed hospitals, schools and cultural centres and had left Palestine's basic infrastructure in shambles. Despite a peace agreement having been concluded with Israel, there had been no change in the situation. Jordan was devoted to the building of a new Middle East, based on bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The peace process was facing obstacles and the situation was posing an ongoing threat to stability further afield. Peace and security could only be achieved by overcoming poverty. Parliaments were in a position to exercise pressure on their governments to resolve instability in the world and must shoulder that responsibility.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that democracy could not exist without sovereignty. Each country must be recognized as independent and its people must be able to elect their government. Respect for historical and cultural specificities was essential: western governance models could not simply be transferred to other countries. Islam espoused human values, which, if not respected, could result in revolt. Dictatorships had turned their backs on the values of Islam. True Islamist governments took into account the will, customs and creed of their people. They aimed to govern without having external dictates imposed on them. Governments represented the people, protected them and their values and ideals. The world was dominated by outdated powers that had been established after the Second World War. A new international political order was required if good governance was to be established.

Mr. H. LUCKS (Namibia) said that there could be no development without peace. Peace and conflict prevention were essential to good governance. Economic prosperity, the rule of law, respect for human rights, social cohesion, peace and security were considered attributes of good governance. According to the United Nations, good governance ensured that political, economic and social priorities were based on broad consensus in which even the poorest and most vulnerable were heard in decision-making. Many lessons could be learned from the Arab Spring. Democratic constitutions with governments elected through free and fair elections, as well as protection for human rights and fundamental freedoms were essential. The causes of the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa had differed from country to country. In some countries the revolution had been prompted by economic hardship, while in others it had been rooted in the people's desire to overcome autocratic and repressive regimes. Namibia was a democratic country, with the rule of law, political freedom and the separation of powers enshrined in its Constitution. In 2009, those principles had been tested when the opposition party had claimed that the elections had been marred by irregularities. A final verdict on that situation was still awaited. Parliamentarians had a strategic position that allowed them to play leadership roles while being accessible to the electorate. Parliament was a forum where representatives of diverse groups with different interests could come together in policy-making discussions. Parliaments across the world made positive contributions to national and regional peace and security through their participation in parliamentary forums. Monitoring the causes of electoral disputes before, during and immediately after elections, under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had enhanced peace and security in the Southern African region.

Mr. F. ALISSA (Syrian Arab Republic) said that over the past year Syria had witnessed many painful events. Demonstrations had begun with a call for necessary and legitimate reforms, as a result of which the authorities had taken steps to reform martial law and establish a new constitutional commission. The new Constitution guaranteed a multiparty system. Despite the reforms, demonstrations had continued and had taken a different form, resulting in violence and impediments to free movement. The United States had encouraged the armed groups to continue their activities. The global mass media had pretended to have representatives in Syria, and had published false information on the number of casualties. Syria had only one enemy: Israel. Foreign support for armed groups in Syria must come to an end if a ceasefire was to be achieved. Syria's former partners had turned against it in the wake of the revolution, in a typical example of double standards, which must end.

Mr. J. BEZAN (Canada) said that the resolution should address the issues arising from the Arab Spring. Consideration should be given to how the governance of fledgling democracies was being developed. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the IPU, the United Nations and the Arab League in promoting democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. Particular attention should be paid to the important role played by youth as a catalyst for change in the Arab region. Good governance depended on respect for the rights of citizens. Individual human rights and freedoms must be respected, and the aspirations and needs of the people must be met. The separation of powers was also a crucial element of good governance, and the justice system must not be used to imprison opposition politicians, such as had been the case in Ukraine.

Mr. T. HENARE (New Zealand) said he wished to draw attention to the treatment of indigenous peoples around the world, since governments and the international community as a whole often ignored the plight of the world's most disadvantaged peoples. The greatest crime against humanity was the "deculturalization" of indigenous peoples. The IPU must do more to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

Mrs. S. MOULENGUI-MOUELE (Gabon) said that the Parliament of Gabon welcomed the report produced by the two co-Rapporteurs, which had provided a good basis for the Standing Committee's discussion. Good governance facilitated the proper implementation of economic, social and financial policies, which were fundamental for achieving peace. Efforts must be made to ensure that all countries had a national policy for the establishment and consolidation of the rule of law. In Gabon steps had been taken to establish appropriate mechanisms for oversight, such as the Council of State, the National Council for Communication and the National Council for Democracy.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that Bahrain should not be included in the list of countries that had been involved in the Arab Spring. In 2011, Bahrain had witnessed events that had posed challenges for the authorities and despite the fact that the people's demands for reform and greater democracy had been met, external interference and attempts to destabilize peace and security had resulted in the previously peaceful demonstrations becoming violent. The legislature had tried to play its role and had implemented internal reforms to answer the popular demands. A national dialogue had been launched under the auspices of the Speaker of Parliament, in which members of the Parliament of Bahrain had been brought together to discuss the response to the demonstrations from the political, legal, economic and social perspectives. That dialogue had continued until 25 July 2011, after which a report had been drafted on the priority actions to be taken in order to meet the aspirations of the people. An independent investigation commission had been established to consider all elements of democracy. The Bahraini authorities were not autocratic, as some delegations had suggested.

Mr. K.P. SOLANKI (India) said that while his delegation expressed its general support for the draft resolution, it had reservations about paragraph 7 and had submitted a proposed amendment. He emphasized that while some common causes had ignited the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, there was no one-size-fits-all solution.

Mr. H. KOUSKOUS (Morocco) said that Morocco had a multiparty system with a parliamentary monarchy and the involvement of civil society in the political life of the country had always been encouraged. The Government was establishing a national reconciliation commission to resolve the issues of the past. A reform of the judicial system was also currently under way in order to meet the demands expressed by the youth.

The PRESIDENT announced that the drafting committee would meet to discuss the draft resolution and would comprise representatives of all six geopolitical groups, namely: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda. A representative of the Eurasia Group should be named shortly.

Mr. F. ALISSA (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic should be represented on the drafting committee.

The PRESIDENT said that the Arab Group had already nominated two representatives and its quota for the drafting committee had therefore already been met.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 3 April (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m. with Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the First Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution (C-I/126/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT said that the draft resolution prepared by the drafting committee, if adopted by the Standing Committee, would be presented to the Assembly on 5 April 2012. He invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to present the report of the deliberations on the draft resolution.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the drafting committee's work had been based on the revised draft resolution prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs. A total of 95 amendments had been received from the delegations of Argentina, Canada, China, Congo, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. The drafting committee had comprised representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda. The amendments had been considered carefully, and many had been incorporated into the text, fully or in part, in line with accepted IPU practices and principles. The drafting committee had attempted to keep the resolution simple, and had decided that, in a spirit of maintaining the universality of the text, it would refrain from referring to specific countries. The drafting committee had worked in a spirit of compromise. The revised draft contained 21 preambular and 18 operative paragraphs, and he hoped that the Standing

Committee would consider it in the same constructive spirit with which the drafting committee had worked.

The PRESIDENT invited the Standing Committee to consider the draft resolution and recalled that only amendments that had been submitted in writing before the statutory deadline could be reintroduced, and that sub-amendments could be proposed.

Mr. K. ONISHI (Japan) said that his delegation had submitted an amendment to include a paragraph referring to the importance, when considering what constituted good governance, of taking into account the cultural specificities of each country. He wished to know why the drafting committee had not accepted that amendment.

Mr. E. TUMA (Chile) explained that the drafting committee had felt that the concerns raised by Japan had been met in operative paragraph 17, and had, therefore, not included the proposed paragraph 19 in the text.

Mr. J. JAHANGIRZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) suggested that the words “and elsewhere” should be added after the words “Middle East” in the title of the draft resolution, since lessons could also be drawn from the anti-capitalist movements in London, Toronto and the United States. Preambular paragraph 7 should be amended accordingly, and thus brought in line with operative paragraph 1.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that, following a lengthy discussion, the drafting committee had decided that the title of the draft resolution could not be amended, since it had been approved by the 124th IPU Assembly.

Mr. P. SECKER (Australia) said that the events that had taken place in the United Kingdom and the United States could not be considered comparable with those that had taken place in the Middle East. His delegation felt that the concerns expressed by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran were met in operative paragraph 1.

Mr. J. JAHANGIRZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he did not wish to stand in the way of a consensus.

Mr. A. CHERRAR (Algeria), supported by the representatives of AUSTRALIA, SAUDI ARABIA, CHAD, CHILE, IRELAND, JAPAN, SOUTH AFRICA, SUDAN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND and the UNITED KINGDOM, said that the drafting committee had done a thorough job and had produced an excellent consensual text, which should be adopted by acclamation.

The First Standing Committee adopted the resolution by acclamation.

Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 126th Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr. L. Ramatlakane (South Africa) should present the resolution on behalf of the First Standing Committee to the 126th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparation of the 128th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had received proposals from Argentina, Pakistan, Switzerland and two proposals from Zambia for subjects for discussion at the 128th IPU Assembly. Zambia had withdrawn one of its proposals. The proposal from Pakistan had not been accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, therefore, could not be considered by the Bureau. After a lengthy discussion, the Bureau had decided that the proposal by Argentina did not fall within the remit of the First Standing Committee. The Bureau had identified similarities between the proposal submitted by Switzerland and the remaining proposal by Zambia. At the Bureau's request, the two delegations concerned had reached a compromise and submitted a combined proposal, entitled *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of the parliament during and after conflict in safeguarding civilian lives, including by overseeing the security sector*, which the Bureau submitted to the First Standing Committee for its approval.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) seconded by the representatives of ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA and UGANDA, expressed his delegation's support for the proposal, which he said should be approved by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any further comments or objections, he would take it that the First Standing Committee could approve the subject item *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of the parliament during and after conflict in safeguarding civilian lives, including by overseeing the security sector* for discussion at the 128th IPU Assembly.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that the delegations of Switzerland and Zambia had proposed that Ms. Schatz of Switzerland and Mr. L. Ramatlakane of South Africa should serve as the co-Rapporteurs to draft the report and draft resolution on the subject for discussion at the 128th Assembly. In the absence of any comments or objections, he would take it that the Standing Committee approved those proposals.

It was so decided.

Election of the Bureau of the First Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that pursuant to the Rules of the Standing Committees, the officers of the Bureau of each Standing Committee must be elected or re-elected at the first IPU Assembly of the year. Titular members for the African, Arab and Latin America and Caribbean Groups must be elected. All other members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election. Regarding the election of the President, he asked whether the Committee would agree to re-elect the incumbent.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT announced that the African Group had nominated Mr. G. Schneeman of South Africa as its titular member, the Arab Group had submitted the candidature of Mr. N. Lazrek of Morocco, and the Latin America and Caribbean Group had nominated Mr. D. Filmus of Argentina as its titular member, and had requested that its substitute member be replaced by Mr. L.E. Sierra Grajales of Colombia. In the absence of any comments or objections, he would take it that the First Standing Committee approved those nominations and wished to re-elect all remaining members of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the First Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas

Second Standing Committee – Sustainable development, Finance and Trade

Sitting of Monday, 2 April

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m. with Mr. S.E. Alhousseini (Saudi Arabia), President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/126/C)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed (C-II/126/C) and, noting that no proposals had been made, said he took it that the draft agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held in Panama City on 17 and 19 April 2011

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Panama City, Panama, on 17 and 19 April 2011 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all IPU Members as part of the overall summary records of the proceedings of the 124th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions concerning the distributed text, he would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-II/126/R, C-II/126/DR-rev, C-II/126/DR-am and C-II/126/DR-am.1)

The PRESIDENT said that, at the 124th IPU Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. O. Benabdallah (Morocco) and Lord Judd (United Kingdom) for the issue to be considered at the present session, namely: *Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas*. The co-Rapporteurs had prepared initial reports that had been distributed to IPU Members at the 125th Assembly in Bern, distributed in their revised form in December 2011 and published on the IPU website. He stressed that the content of the reports was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as on past occasions, was intended to stimulate the debate and provide the background for the Committee's work.

A preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion had also been prepared and distributed to IPU Members in December 2011, and a revised version had been published in February 2012. Members had been able to submit amendments to the revised draft resolution until the statutory deadline of 16 March 2012. Although amendments were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. A drafting committee, comprising representatives of all the geopolitical groups, would be appointed to consider the proposed amendments and produce the final draft resolution for distribution. The two co-Rapporteurs would be invited to participate in the drafting committee in an advisory capacity.

In order to ensure that the debate was as interactive as possible, he stressed that the reading of prepared speeches was strongly discouraged. He invited the members of the

Committee to participate actively in the discussion and comment freely on the statements made by various speakers.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom), *co-Rapporteur*, introducing his report, said that it was intended to serve as a basis for the Committee's discussion and the draft resolution was merely a proposal, which must be discussed and revised in order to ensure that the whole Committee took ownership of the final text.

When the World Bank and the IMF had been established, it had been agreed that the president of the World Bank would be nominated by the United States, and the managing director of the IMF would be appointed by Europe. In that context, President Obama had recently named the primary candidate to take over the presidency of the World Bank. Although the candidate was competent and impressive, the world had moved a long way since that agreement had been reached in 1945. Both the World Bank and the IMF had become genuinely international institutions, and their chiefs should therefore be appointed transparently and openly by the global community. The post should be open to the best possible candidate. That selection process should also apply to the appointment of the UN Secretary-General.

It was evident that the contemporary world comprised an interdependent global community. The success of the current generation of decision-makers would be judged on its ability to make the institutions of the global community healthy and effective. Those institutions must reflect the realities of the global population.

Mr. O. BENABDALLAH (Morocco), *co-Rapporteur*, said that three factors must be borne in mind when considering the distribution of power: current conditions, historical factors and commonly declared objectives regarding the redistribution of wealth and power. At the global level, population, economic, technical and organizational changes in the past had translated into a gradual change in the balance of power, resulting in a reduction of formal resources possessed by certain States and an increase in informal resources possessed by new, emerging States. The capacity of States to influence civil society organizations had shifted, and a transition had occurred between geographic centres of power and global influence.

In a diverse and complex world, multilateral institutions did not operate in a consistent manner to manage the major problems facing humanity, since their way of operating did not take into account the way the world was changing. The consequences of current global crises had resulted in economic stakes becoming central to international decision-making. At the operational level, the redistribution of power to improve global governance and democracy must take into account the way priorities were set on the international agenda. Too many items on the international agenda had not seen sufficient follow-up, which had led to a lack of trust in the international system.

The debate on the draft resolution should take into consideration the changes taking place in the world, and seek to face challenges in a spirit of cooperation and rapprochement. The choice of subject for debate demonstrated the political will, among IPU Member Parliaments, to build a new form of governance that redistributed power and was inspired by peace and democracy.

Debate

Mrs. R. MAVRONICOLA (Cyprus) said that the world's parliaments had important contributions to make to the ownership of international agendas through their ability to strengthen the cause of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Parliaments could also boost responses to crises. In the current situation of economic, political and social crisis, the system of conducting relations between States was being openly disputed. The United Nations, which had been established to uphold international law, was being bypassed. The gap between politicians and citizens was widening. In many parts of the world democracy was still lacking and

human rights and fundamental freedoms were not respected. The global economic crisis had underscored those and other weaknesses in the ownership of international agendas.

Parliamentarians must uphold the legitimacy of the United Nations and ensure that its authority was not further eroded. Parliaments had an obligation to oversee their governments to ensure that they remained within the boundaries of international law. They must also safeguard transparency. The IPU should ensure that the goals of the United Nations were promoted, including equitable geographic and gender distribution in staffing. Intensive and continuous consultation was required between parliaments and executives, between parliamentarians and their constituents, and between parliamentarians at the international level, in order to establish participatory democracies.

Mr. B.-Z. ZHAMBALNIMBUEV (Russian Federation) said that although the globalization of the world economy had many positive aspects, its negative influences must not be forgotten. The gap between rich and poor countries and regions was widening. Globalization was a multifaceted phenomenon that required careful consideration and balanced evaluation. Efforts must be made to preserve the diversity of the development model in order to ensure that the positive effects of globalization were used for the benefit of all. Global governance must be reformed, and cooperation under the aegis of the major international institutions must be increased in order to find ways to manage globalization effectively. The number of States participating in decision-making on global trade and finance issues must be increased. Poverty eradication and the promotion of development and social protection should be at the top of the international agenda. Recovery in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis was slow, and the sovereign debt of the United States constituted a threat to the global economy. The Russian Federation was also concerned about the situation in the eurozone, although his delegation welcomed the efforts made by the EU to stabilize the situation, particularly in Greece, and to maintain the position of the euro as one of the world's major reserve currencies. Despite the difficulties in recovering from the financial crisis, emerging economies were demonstrating high rates of development. Reforms that were underway at the global level must be carried through to their effective conclusion. The G20 summit in November 2011 had resulted in pledges to improve economic development by increasing employment. Those pledges must be translated into action. His delegation supported the report and draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs.

Ms. S. ZUBIN IRANI (India) said that despite efforts to create a world order based on equality and sovereign rights among nations, equality was still far from being achieved. Unequal distribution of global power was at the heart of the problem. In order for global mechanisms to function better they should be restructured in a way that accommodated all nations. The agencies that could shape the future would thus be more representative, transparent and accountable. Disillusionment about the unequal distribution of power had grown in developing countries. Global cooperation and consensus on issues of development were crucial. Global institutions must be restructured to render them more democratic and improve their capacity to deliver.

In the interests of more equitable distribution of the gains from trade, a fairer and more just regime must be built. The balance in the world trading system must be redressed. The use of non-tariff barriers against developing countries on grounds of environmental protection was inconsistent with the notion of a just and fair trading regime. An early conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations was crucial for creating an open, stable, equitable and non-discriminatory global trading regime. The interests of the least developed countries must be addressed urgently.

A fair and comprehensive approach to climate change was particularly crucial. Since developed countries had contributed to the alarming increase in global warming, they should shoulder the responsibility of ensuring that steps were taken to address that situation. Rather than quantified emission limitations, an appropriate burden-sharing formula would be the per capita principles. Special attention should be paid to the situation of small island developing States, their

vulnerability to rising sea levels and their limited capacity to respond to climate change. All countries must be allowed to have their voices heard in important global forums, and the balance of political and economic forces must be redressed in order to establish a just and progressive world order.

Mr. L. GLOWKA (Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) said that the resolution on the role of parliaments in preserving biodiversity, adopted at the 111th IPU Assembly, had recognized the Convention on Biological Diversity as the principal international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Along with climate change, loss of biodiversity presented one of humanity's greatest challenges. Biodiversity was largely irreplaceable, contributed to sustainable development, natural disaster reduction, poverty reduction and climate change. Parliamentarians had a role to play in acting as agents of change for sustainable development, and ensuring the effective implementation of the 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In considering the draft resolution currently before it, the Second Standing Committee should consider the Convention on Biological Diversity a model global environmental forum that served as a source of inspired, equitable and participatory decision-making from which other intergovernmental forums could learn.

Mr. J. MATOS ROSA (Portugal) said that the global population had grown sevenfold since 1800. Consideration must be given to how to guarantee equality and ensure resources for future generations. Governments must set national strategies for sustainable development and adopt public policies for economic development that incorporated environmental and social issues and defined long-term goals. Protection of civil rights must be accompanied by policies for economic, social and environmental development. Sustainable development strategies required continuous participation by all actors. All States should commit to ensuring sustained growth, global competitiveness and energy efficiency. They must promote productive employment and encourage economic competition and the rational use of energy resources. Ability to manage technological innovation was particularly important for facing globalization. Efforts must also be made to protect the environment as a key element of sustainable development.

Equity, equal opportunities and social cohesion were essential; the world could only be fair when men and women had equal opportunities for education, training and success. International cooperation must be used to defend peace, and each individual must recognize his or her responsibility towards others, particularly the most vulnerable and unprotected. The interdependence of States, international trade and capital flows, global technological networks, transport and communication meant that all problems were global problems, which required global solutions.

Ms. R. GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ (Cuba) said that millions of people around the world were living in an unjust system that afforded them no opportunities. Wealth and power remained in the hands of an elite few and wars were waged in the name of that injustice. Greed and hunger for power had brought the world to a parlous state, in which financial crises, food shortages and poverty were spreading. The world was also facing an ethical crisis, full of empty political statements that flew in the face of democracy. Although protests by people who wanted to be involved in political life were increasing, those in power were not taking any notice. International conferences on subjects of great importance, such as climate change, were not yielding any results. A balance of power must be re-established and the international community must be able to take ownership of the international agenda. Only when there was true respect for international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations could the international agenda be said to have been established by all.

Mr. C. HANSUEBSAI (Thailand) said that inclusiveness and outreach within and among societies improved public accountability and participatory decision-making, and enhanced

cooperation, self-determination and the ownership of agendas by the people. Although international institutions and systems had consistently responded and adapted to rising challenges, they were not all-inclusive and still tended to favour rich, industrialized nations over the poor and marginalized ones. Shifts in the world economy towards the East and South meant that meaningful reforms were needed in international systems to ensure the greater inclusion of emerging powers and reflect the distribution of the global population in order to cope more effectively with newly-emerging global challenges. Democratic redistribution of power should improve the interconnectedness between countries and regions. The equitable redistribution of ownership in international systems would ensure the continued relevance of those systems in global policy- and decision-making.

Parliaments must be part of the redistribution of power and should increase their commitment to fulfilling their oversight role. They must work together to promote democracy and good governance in international institutions. Parliaments should call for open, balanced, inclusive, transparent and accountable global governance and should commit to bringing a parliamentary dimension to international agendas and global decision-making. The role of the IPU in the UN system must be strengthened.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) said that women's empowerment was an important element that must be taken into account in the consideration of redistribution of power. The recent events in North Africa and the Middle East had demonstrated that women in the region wanted to take an active part in shaping their future. Women would tend to invest more in health care and education, thereby leading to poverty elimination. Women still lacked a voice in politics; efforts to reach gender parity were too slow. Female thinking and economically smart politics were needed. Action was needed to ensure that women were more involved in political life. They must be given a fair chance to participate in decision-making, and must be given leadership roles in international forums, such as the World Bank, the IMF and the United Nations. The world could not afford to shut women out.

Mr. A. AL-AJMI (Kuwait) said that while countries naturally had individual interests the time had come to consider the interests of the global community as a whole. Climate change was a hallmark of the 21st century, and its consequences were affecting the most vulnerable and marginalized. The strongest always prevailed. The recent events that had taken place in Tunisia, Yemen and Egypt had impacted on the whole Arab world. The majority of the world's population lived in poverty and faced death and disease, while wealth remained in the hands of an elite few. Wealth must be redistributed. Kuwait had achieved growth that had enabled the promotion of health, education and democracy for the continuous improvement of society. Kuwait was setting aside 4 per cent of its GDP to grant loans, on preferential terms, to developing countries. In 2008, US\$ 3,500 had been given to all households to overcome the effects of the financial crisis. Wealth and power must be redistributed to ensure true equality. The historical and cultural specificities of each country must be taken into account.

Mr. F. MÜRI (Switzerland) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution, the subject of which was particularly topical. He underscored the importance of strengthening international governance for sustainable development. In that spirit, Switzerland had submitted an amendment to insert a new paragraph on the establishment of an international council for sustainable development, which would be a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly. Environmental protection should be central to international discussions at the highest level. The gap between words and actions must be reduced. The idea of a new council was also included in the first draft of the outcome document for the forthcoming Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The IPU should support that initiative by referring to it in its resolution.

Mr. F.-X. de DONNEA (Belgium) said that while his delegation approved the general sentiment of the report and the draft resolution, it wished to introduce some amendments to complement and strengthen the resolution. Preambular paragraph 2 should be amended to include a specific reference to the volatility of food prices, which had led to the global food crisis. Preambular paragraph 5 should make a stronger reference to the responsibility of economically powerful States in the current economic crisis. A global economic council should be established in parallel with the G20, rather than as an alternative to it. Operative paragraph 4 should refer specifically to the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and paragraph 11 should be amended to request the United Nations, rather than the IPU, to undertake an annual review of global progress in accountability, inclusiveness and representative democracy, since the IPU was facing considerable budgetary constraints.

Mr. Y. MURATA (Japan) said that violent uprisings demanding democratization had occurred in the Middle East and North Africa. Those movements had sought to overthrow long-term dictatorships and establish democracy. Although since the end of the Second World War numerous countries in Asia and Africa had escaped from colonial control and gained their independence, many others had continued to suffer from political interference. Democratization had been delayed and poverty had led to repeated conflict. After the Cold War, market economy reforms and liberalization had spread around the world. The newly emerging economies of Africa and Asia had seen remarkable development, yet they had not produced politics that guaranteed universal values. While Japan had been the first Asian country to modernize and develop democracy, it also had a painful history of inflicting terrible troubles on its neighbouring countries. Having reflected on Japan's past, the Japanese authorities believed that the pursuit of democracy and universal values would form a platform for world peace and secure the happiness and prosperity of individuals. The Japanese Constitution stated that Japan wished to occupy an honoured place in international society, striving for the preservation of peace and the abolition of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance.

Mr. B. AL-SALHI (Palestine) said that the interdependence of States and the equitable distribution of wealth and power were of particular importance to the people of Palestine. The World Bank had recently published a report on the situation in Palestine, which had stated that no further improvements in the situation could be expected, and that the global economic crisis would have a harmful impact on the lives of Palestinians. Israel dominated the economic situation in Palestine, and the international financial institutions should bring an end to the occupation of Palestinian resources. The two-state solution, which had been approved by the international community, was being threatened by Israeli practices. Israel was preventing the free movement of people and goods, which were the basic principles of international agreements. Israel had confiscated the goods and belongings of the Palestinian people as well as Palestinian resources. Israel was levying Palestinian assets and preventing true Palestinian investment. Israel was continuing to build settlements and was devising economic projects that were harmful to the environment. People in the Gaza Strip were prohibited from exporting goods, which had resulted in an economic crisis, rising unemployment and deepening poverty. Israel was preventing the Palestinian people from using water for irrigation and was dumping food products on the markets to prevent the Palestinian people from selling their produce. International institutions had an important role to play to ensure the free movement of Palestinian goods and people, and to bring an end to the occupation.

Mr. R. CHITOTELA (Zambia) said that the Government of Zambia had translated the international agenda into national development plans. A number of poverty reduction strategies had been implemented. National development plans had been established with the broad participation of key stakeholders, including civil society, to ensure ownership of the international agenda. Although over the past five years the economy had performed well, the challenge of

reducing inequality remained. With that in mind, the government had increased social spending and taken measures to promote primary school attendance. Education was crucial if the gap between rich and poor was to be narrowed. The government also realized that gender affected power relations. A national policy on gender had been implemented in order to empower women economically, particularly by promoting microcredits and strengthening women's land rights.

The relevant political and institutional frameworks had been established to ensure a balance of power. Elections were held every five years and citizens were free to elect the leaders of their choice. The separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary was also guaranteed. A parliamentary reform process was underway and more opportunities had been opened up for the participation of civil society in parliamentary business. Parliamentary committees had been opened to the public and could therefore interact easily with many stakeholders.

Wealth redistribution should be supplemented by development objectives that aimed to improve the well-being of the whole population, based on their active, free and meaningful participation in development and the fair distribution of its benefits. The role of civil society and parliamentarians in the overall ownership of the development agenda was crucial if the balance of power between the governors and the governed was to be redressed.

Mr. O. BENABDALLAH (Morocco), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those who had participated in the discussion thus far, and expressed his satisfaction that so many concurring views had been expressed. He thanked the representative of Kuwait for outlining his country's actions to promote international resolutions. With regard to the issues raised by Switzerland, he said that there must be a role for parliamentarians in the future international council for sustainable development. He also thanked the representative of Belgium for his delegation's proposed amendments.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom), *co-Rapporteur*, expressed satisfaction that the discussion had begun with consideration of ownership of the international agenda. The agenda must belong to the whole global community. He welcomed the comments that had been made about the growing tendency to bypass the United Nations. Increasingly, the view was being expressed that the United Nations had failed. There was a need to revive the view that the United Nations was only a representation of its Member States. Climate change was the responsibility of the traditionally strong economic powers, since they were responsible for the climate change crisis. It was particularly interesting that many speakers had mentioned sustainable development. Although the IMF had a woman at its head, she was European, which did not address the question of global fairness. Gender equality was, however, an important issue, since the responsibility shouldered by women worldwide, particularly in agriculture, was considerable. Women, therefore, had a crucial role to play in the global discussions on international food security. The United Nations should establish a development council to work alongside the Security Council. He expressed satisfaction that the situation of Palestine had been raised, since the people of Palestine could not represent themselves and were being prevented from contributing to the global system. He agreed with the representative of Zambia that balance of power could not be achieved at the international level if it had not been achieved fully at the national level.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

Debate (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Mr. S.E. Alhousseini (Saudi Arabia), President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Mr. G. TERENZI (San Marino) said that moving towards globalization had not only broadened cultures but had also imposed a new dynamic vision to keep abreast of information and communication developments. Some countries were still hampered by the over-exploitation of their resources and extreme poverty. Wealth remained stagnant in certain areas, and there were increasing inequalities between countries. In that context, parliaments must encourage their governments to implement development policies where human capital could be made available to introduce new land use development techniques and develop the fishing industry. Capacity-building measures were also essential in order to maximize human and community potential. Institutional power and authority must be redistributed more equitably. Cooperation and collaboration were essential for equitable growth. Well-organized and well-distributed economic and social development was essential, and support must be given to small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to guarantee their active participation in the development of economic democracy.

Ms. L. AL-GAoud (Bahrain) said that the need to redistribute power was urgent. All peoples and parliaments should seek to achieve power redistribution at all levels. Bahrain sought justice and engaged in cooperation with many countries, providing debt relief assistance. Although Bahrain was part of a global society it had neither the power nor the ability to influence decision-making in international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, only the major international powers dominated those institutions and the rest of the world lacked confidence and trust in the management of those institutions. The major powers managing those institutions had been directly responsible for the global economic and financial crisis, the effects of which had been catastrophic for developing countries. Many banks had been able to take advantage of the crisis.

The report discussed the multitude of inequalities suffered by developing countries, which had given rise to a sense of injustice and a tendency towards extremism. That gap would widen if those countries were unable to have their say in decision-making within international financial institutions. The world was facing challenges wrought by natural and man-made disasters, to which a coordinated response was needed. Major difficulties had arisen in Arab countries, including the threat of nuclear terrorism. Parliamentarians must work together to address those challenges and achieve peace and security in the world.

Mr. E. SATYOHAMBA (Angola) said that since the end of the Cold War the issue of the redistribution of power had dominated discussions on international relations. Emerging countries had been demanding the right to participate in decision-making in multilateral institutions. The global economic and financial crisis had made the richest countries more likely to take unilateral initiatives in the defence of their national interests, and less willing to cooperate in the multilateral system. There was a tendency for major issues to be addressed in informal or ad hoc settings, which was undermining the legitimacy of the United Nations. The global economic and financial crisis had brought to light the vulnerability of the existing global system. That system must be reorganized to redress the balance of power. The establishment of a new international order was crucial, but would be a slow and difficult process. Developing countries' voices must be heard in the international system.

Mr. M.N. AKBARY (Afghanistan) said that the draft resolution called for the establishment of an inclusive and fully representative global economic council as an alternative to the G20. Although the G20 had been a significant improvement on the G7 and G8 forums, it had not replaced them. The G7 and G8 still held the majority of economic power. That power, like economic wealth, remained unequally distributed. That situation must be rectified. The G20 did not meet the widely accepted criteria for representation, since 173 UN Member States were excluded, or only marginally included, in its deliberations. His delegation called for the establishment of sustainable global economic governance bodies that would monitor the work of global financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF. The draft resolution also called for the urgent reform of the UN Security Council. Afghanistan supported all efforts to ensure equity in decision-making.

Mr. R.M. AL SHURAIQI (United Arab Emirates) said that the debate was giving an accurate reflection of the global economy and global politics: rising political powers were not reflected in international institutions. His delegation wished to stress the importance of ensuring that emerging countries were involved in establishing the international economic agenda, since they represented a large proportion of the world's population and resources. The establishment of an economic council within the United Nations should be postponed until its methods of functioning had been established. The UN Security Council must be reformed in order to restructure veto rights.

Ms. B. Contini (Italy), First Vice-President of the Second Standing Committee, took the Chair.

Mr. H. MAGAMA (South Africa) said that the crisis of confidence in the credibility and legitimacy of inter alia the UN Security Council, the World Bank and the IMF was a consequence of long outdated post-Second World War and post-Cold War realities. Such a nuanced manifestation of global dictatorship was a stark and painful reminder of Africa's long struggle for democracy. The growing influence of those institutions on matters of peace, security and human rights, and the development of economic and fiscal policy, required those institutions to be legitimate, transparent and accountable. While there was a general recognition of the unjust and unbalanced monopoly in global governance, developed countries were resisting the necessary reform of multilateral institutions. Those institutions must become truly representative, democratic, transparent and accountable, and must serve the interests of developed, developing and least developed nations alike. His delegation was particularly concerned about the lack of political will among developed and powerful nations to move forward with the reform of the UN Security Council. The IPU should act to promote the debate on global governance reform, global justice and equality. South Africa was committed to pursuing global governance reform for the benefit of all.

Mr. V. BUSKO (Belarus) said that the global economic and financial crisis was very worrying for the international community. Inequality and poverty were continuing to increase and people all around the world were suffering. The negative effects of the crisis were complicated by other problems such as climate change, food shortages, poor health care and increasing natural disasters. Unconventional security threats had also increased, such as terrorism, trafficking in weapons, persons and drugs, and other forms of transnational organized crime. Globalization and interdependence had made all people equally vulnerable to those threats, and meant that stability and wealth only existed for an elite few, while the majority of the global population lived in poverty. The current system of global governance did not correspond to global realities and thus could not address the problems of humanity. Global power must, therefore, be redistributed in order to enable a fair redistribution of wealth. The economic and financial crisis had proven that a sweeping revision was required of public policy, and in

particular of the global economic system. Belarus believed that global partnership would enable the international community to establish a fair power balance and redistribution of wealth. Parliamentarians must participate fully in efforts to that end.

Mr. A. RAZZI (Italy) said that the question of establishing a fair global balance of power was a delicate and complex matter. The world was interconnected, and global institutions were finding it increasingly difficult to manage the major problems facing humanity. Global wealth was now 40 times greater than it had been in the 20th century, and its redistribution was, therefore, essential. Poverty and underdevelopment must be overcome, and the distribution of power must be brought into line with contemporary developments, such as the rise of the highly competitive Asian economies. A new balance of power was required, with concerted action to define a new international agenda.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) said that utopian thinking was necessary to overcome the depth of inequality that existed in the world. Millions of people around the world were deprived of their basic human rights. When people crossed borders they became devalued and lost their rights and dignity. All people should be able to enjoy the same rights wherever they went. Although such a concept might seem idealistic, so at one time had the concept of the abolition of slavery, which had been achieved. The global community should move towards the elimination of the idea of "foreignness" towards a notion of universal citizenship.

Mr. S. BALYEJUSA KIRUNDA (Uganda) said that the primary goal for any reasonable government should be to realize socio-economic transformation for the benefit of its people and to ensure economic prosperity. The question of how governments could help generate wealth was fundamental. All governments around the world should have the capacity to generate prosperity for all their citizens, in order to improve their quality of life and living standards. His delegation supported the position expressed by the representative of Zambia that efforts to address imbalances at the national level were essential. The Ugandan Government had established a number of programmes to improve the quality of life of the people, such as universal primary and secondary education. Vocational programmes were also being integrated into the education system in order to bridge the skills gap and increase competitiveness on the labour market. A national agricultural advisory programme had been established to commercialize agriculture as a means of improving income per household. International institutions must be inclusive and transparent, and should focus on formulating policies that enhanced competitiveness in the trade market, in order to ensure that the balance of power and economic wealth was harmonized to an acceptable level.

Mrs. M. MARTENS (Netherlands) said that the Netherlands had a long tradition of providing assistance to people and countries in need, and had upheld the international commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of its GDP to development aid, as well as cooperating with the EU on development issues. That notwithstanding, the Dutch contribution to development aid was facing criticism for two reasons: firstly, the Dutch public had heard through the media about the considerable natural resources in many developing countries, which were often mismanaged and used to the benefit of a corrupt few. With that in mind, the Dutch taxpayers objected to their money being spent on aid to those countries. Second, the Dutch people were also hearing through the media that aid was not always used wisely to contribute to peace, stability, economic growth and well-being in recipient countries.

The world was facing considerable challenges, such as the global economic and financial crisis, security threats and climate change. The rich were getting richer and the poor poorer. The EU was an example of how stability and growth could be realized through cooperation and respect for fundamental principles such as the rule of law, democracy and human rights and freedoms. Her delegation supported the call, in the draft resolution, for a more inclusive,

balanced and holistic approach to development, with a focus on sustainable development, poverty eradication and the well-being of the people. Measures must be taken to overcome the paradoxical situation that had led to certain countries gaining economic strength from the burning of fossil fuels, or the devastation of major oil spills. All countries and international organizations must demonstrate the political will to develop democratic processes and foster transparency, as well as to seek new indicators for development and the fair distribution of power and wealth.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia) said that the draft resolution proposed a set of measures to ensure that international agendas were more accessible to the larger, under-represented proportion of the world's people. Namibia supported the draft, in particular its approach to issues such as United Nations reform, climate change and sustainable development. Namibia sought friendly relations with the other countries of the world, based on respect for the human rights and dignity of all. Namibia, like many countries, was facing challenges such as threats to security, the effects of the global economic and financial crisis, and in 2010 and 2011 had been hit by severe flooding as a result of climate change.

The gap between the rich and the poor was widening all over the world, including in Namibia. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to find a way to bridge that gap, by ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of wealth. Current world trade practices were subject to trade agreements that were favourable to developed countries. Those practices were not fair, and prevented developing countries from competing on a level playing field with their counterparts in developed countries. WTO trade regimes and practices must be reviewed. A change in power relations was needed urgently in order to ensure more equitable participation of all members of the international community in decision-making to reduce poverty and consolidate democracy. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, had a key role to play in ensuring the well-being of their constituents, and should thus advocate for a redistribution of global power. The IPU should continue to provide training and capacity-building to ensure that all parliamentarians were well-informed about international issues and thus empower them in international relations.

Mr. R.M. GARCÍA (Chile) said that the redistribution of power was an important element in the consolidation of peace and security. The world was full of flagrant disparities, which were depriving many people of their basic human rights. Although many developing countries were striving to improve the welfare of their citizens, and emerging economies were faring well on the international scene, the continuing unfair distribution of power, as well as wealth, would result in severe failings. Multilateral bodies must work to boost cooperation in order to meet contemporary global challenges. Imbalances in power had been inherited from the past. International agencies were not resetting their priorities to take into account the interests of a large swathe of humanity. Deep-seated changes were required in world governance to redress that balance. Wealth could not be distributed without a redistribution of power, and efforts must therefore be made to strengthen multilateralism. All countries, in particular the least developed ones, must be heard in international forums. The UN Security Council should be reformed to become more representative: emerging countries such as Brazil and India should be granted permanent membership. A revised voting system should be introduced in the IMF to ensure that developing countries held more than 45 per cent of votes. The reform process should continue until parity was achieved between developing and developed countries. As representatives of social and political plurality, parliamentarians had an important role to play in promoting democratization in multilateral agencies and organizations. The process of multilateral negotiation and dialogue must be improved to make it more democratic.

Mr. H. ABDI (Ethiopia) said that equity and fairness must be brought into society by measures to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. The concentration of wealth in the hands of a few had left the majority of the world's population in a dire situation. The cost of living was increasing, and basic social services were out of the reach of many. Parliamentarians must intervene in policy-making in order to tackle those problems. Putting power into the hands of the people to enable them to elect their own government for the common good was the essence of democracy. The world's parliamentarians must commit to work together to shape international agendas in order to create a better world for the next generation and beyond.

The President resumed the chair.

Mr. S. AL MASHANI (Oman) said that the redistribution of power and wealth must take place at the international level. Developed nations should share their wealth. Wealthy countries must help their poorer neighbours, and parliaments must represent their people, not their governments.

Mr. L.A. HEBER (Uruguay) expressed his delegation's support for the report and draft resolution, and said that efforts must be made to ensure that international and multilateral organizations, such as the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, were democratic in their decision-making methods. When greater democracy was achieved in those organizations, other developments would follow, such as the creation of a fully representative global economic council. Uruguay had recently been accused of being a tax haven. Allegations in that regard were unfounded, but had resulted in threats to block Uruguay's participation in international trade. True international representation was required in the multilateral system, in order to ensure that each country could make its voice heard.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) thanked the two co-Rapporteurs for their efforts, and said that while many of the reforms proposed in the draft resolution reflected France's concerns, such as the need to reform the UN Security Council, his delegation could not approve the proposal to replace the G20 by a new global economic council. The G20 had enabled effective international coordination at the beginning of the global economic and financial crisis, and its establishment had represented considerable progress in the bid to increase the number of countries represented in high-level international economic decision-making. The establishment of an economic council under the aegis of the United Nations would provide a global coordination platform for governments, international organizations and NGOs to discuss cooperation on issues related to sustainable development. The establishment of such a council should not bring the legitimacy of the G20 into question, and the council should therefore not replace it. France had submitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution, which highlighted the need to maintain the G20. The new council could be a subsidiary body of the existing UN Economic and Social Council, which had been established by the General Assembly.

It was unrealistic to expect that the IMF, World Bank and WTO would be completely transparent in their negotiations, since they often held closed meetings. France had thus submitted a proposal to amend operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution to the effect that those institutions should be more transparent and take fair account of all national interests. The decisions taken by those organizations must be more clearly presented and explained to the public.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom), *co-Rapporteur*, agreed that the need to redistribute power was urgent. Too much time was spent on empty rhetoric and positive action was lacking. The Second Standing Committee must, therefore, produce a sharp and focused resolution. He had been particularly struck by the lack of confidence in international institutions expressed during the

debate, and agreed that the powers trying to control the international agenda must make sure their national agendas were exemplary. Powerful States were clutching at power in a context in which they themselves were failing, which demonstrated the strong relationship between arrogance and insecurity.

Many speakers had referred to poverty as a threat to stability. The international financial institutions worked in a top-down manner, and, as part of the management system of the powerful, did not provide the means to effectively tackle the root causes of poverty. Poverty could only be overcome if the global community worked together. He had appreciated the comment made by the representative of Ecuador on the need not to dismiss utopian thinking. Dreams and values for society must be upheld. Much of the global economic and financial crisis could be said to be a crisis of values and vision.

While he agreed that education was fundamental to achieve true equity in the distribution of power, a good balance must be established between functional education and the education required for the emancipation of humanity. He cautioned against confusing citizenship and consumerism. Citizenship should mean participation: the ability of individuals to take responsibility for shaping the society of which they were part. The redistribution of wealth could not be ignored when discussing the redistribution of power. Just as power could not be asserted without wealth, the simple redistribution of wealth without power would be considered paternalistic. Political will was essential to drive change. Care must be taken to ensure that all participants in the Assembly returned home from Kampala with a tool that they could use to strengthen their respective societies and implement the change that was so greatly needed.

Mr. O. BENABDALLAH (Morocco), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked the speakers for their contributions to the discussion, and said that he agreed with the representative of the United Arab Emirates that the new economic council should not be established immediately. The new council should be an operational body, rather than a forum for debate. Lessons should be drawn from past experience. The council should be democratic, and all countries' actions should be seen and their voices should be heard. The purpose of establishing the council would not be to replace the G20, but rather to enlarge and democratize it, and to ensure that an operational bridge was in place between the G20 and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Mr. N. OMARI (Jordan) said that the redistribution of power required the establishment of relevant political institutions. Measures must be taken to address industrial pollution, which destroyed the environment for some, while enabling others to live in wealth. Good governance was required, without the hyper-centralization of power. Everyone must have a proper say, and parliaments must be legitimately elected with broad representation. In Jordan, all levels of society were represented in parliament. Israel, in spurning international law and opposing the establishment of a Palestinian State, was an impediment to the realization of human rights to the detriment of the whole Middle East region.

Mr. A.I. EL-TAHIR (Sudan) expressed his delegation's satisfaction that the *co-Rapporteurs* had referred to the hegemonic approach to management selection in the Bretton Woods institutions. Those institutions, while playing an important role in safeguarding the international monetary system, dictated the future of individual economies and imposed their policies without consultation. Consideration should be given to how parliamentarians could work to change that situation. Efforts should be made to change the institutional framework and the rules and regulations that governed the international financial institutions, which had been in operation since 1945. That change was required urgently.

The global economic and financial crisis had demonstrated the fragility of the international financial system. The poorest countries had been most seriously affected, particularly owing to the rising prices of foodstuffs and commodities, which had led to a resurgence of poverty. Recovery was slow, in part owing to the fact that developing countries had no voice in

deliberations on how to repair the global economy. If done fairly, the redistribution of power would result in a redistribution of economic strength. Global decisions must take into account the interests of all, not only the ruling powers. The interdependence between countries should be recognized in the new economic systems that would emerge as a result of the crisis. The equitable distribution of power at the national level was also very important, and all parliamentarians had an active role to play in achieving it.

Mr. T.M. MAÏNA (Chad) commended the work of the co-Rapporteurs and said that the report pointed to the imbalance in global governance, with important economic, social and financial decisions being taken by a few major powers, while developing countries remained powerless. Decisions were not necessarily based on good practices, and underprivileged countries did not have an opportunity to express their views. The WTO was particularly lacking in transparency. Poor countries should be involved in a cooperative process. IPU Member Parliaments had an important role to play in underscoring the urgent need for change.

Mr. T. WICKHOLM (Norway) expressed his delegation's support for the report and the draft resolution, and said that Norway had long been an advocate of UN Security Council reform and would support the expansion of its permanent and non-permanent membership. The Security Council must reflect the way the world had developed: over the past 60 years the number of UN Member States had quadrupled, an increase that should be reflected in both the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Security Council. The voices of new economic powers should be heard. While the report gave a just and straightforward analysis of power, the real world was not so straightforward, and the process of redistributing power was likely to meet obstacles: when the powerful were unable to exercise their power they tended to circumvent established systems. The system of appointing the UN Secretary-General must be based on geographic rotation. The same system should be in place for the appointment of the IPU Secretary General. Care should be taken when considering how to ensure that a new economic council would guarantee that all voices would be heard, and how voting procedures would be established. While the draft resolution called for effectiveness, it did not elaborate on how that could be achieved.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that United Nations reform was essential if equitable distribution of power was to be achieved, beginning with a reform of the Security Council to ensure that collective decisions were made in order to meet collective objectives. Permanent seats on the Security Council should be given to representatives of all geopolitical groups. While the international community was calling for the redistribution of power at the international level, consideration must be given to the importance of redistributing power at the domestic level by guaranteeing women a role in political, social and economic life. Parliamentarians must advocate for policies that promoted gender equality at the local and international levels. To that end, the Zimbabwean authorities were currently drafting a new constitution, which would promote gender equality.

Mr. J. ZAMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that unprecedented challenges were threatening the future of humanity. They transcended national borders and required collective action and close cooperation between nations. Some of those challenges had natural causes, while others were man-made: climate change, the sustainability and security of natural resources, food shortages and the threat of widespread hunger had been caused by human mismanagement. While an elite few were responsible for that mismanagement, the entire global community was suffering as a result. International cooperation was essential if those threats and challenges were to be overcome. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in raising public awareness and encouraging governments to reach comprehensive agreements on the alleviation of the impacts of the global threats to humanity.

The failure of financial systems and international trade agreements was another serious challenge, which was exclusively man-made and had arisen mostly as a result of activities of developed countries. The global economic and financial crisis had spread throughout the world, and had a profound impact on developing countries. That crisis underscored the urgent need to reform the international financial and trade institutions. Those institutions were dominated by the interests of certain powerful States and worked mostly to meet the needs of their economies. In order to redistribute power at the international level, reforms to render the international political system more representative, transparent, accountable and effective were also essential.

The reform of the UN Security Council was particularly important, since its current composition reflected the geopolitics of the West dating back to the end of the Second World War. The world had undergone great changes since that time, and the modalities of the Security Council should be brought up to date in order to ensure that it did not lose its credibility and effectiveness. The UN General Assembly should also be empowered to play an important role in tackling threats to international peace and security. Parliaments had a dual role to play: they must work to educate the public and encourage governments to place international challenges at the top of their agenda.

Mr. I.A. AROWOSOGÉ (Nigeria) said that Nigeria supported the draft resolution. Given that the world's economy was facing a particularly trying time, a conscious effort was required to reorganize economic strategies to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The President of the World Bank should be competent and have a wealth of professional experience. Although President Obama had nominated a candidate for the position of the Head of the World Bank, a female Nigerian candidate, who had many years' experience working with the World Bank and who had been the Minister of Finance of Nigeria, had also been nominated. It was high time that a representative of the developing world had the opportunity to serve the international community at the head of the World Bank.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia) said that while the global population had increased to 7 billion, the availability of land, water and fertilizer was decreasing and it was becoming increasingly difficult to produce sufficient food to meet the needs of the global population. Transfers of technology were required from developed to developing countries to enable them to increase their food production. Global economic power was shifting to the Asia-Pacific region, and the centres of power and influence must adapt to that change. He expressed concern about the reference in the report to informal sources of power. There had been recent shifts in power around the world as a result of the use of new technologies, in particular the Internet and social networking. Shifts in power must take place through formal democratic processes. It was, therefore, essential that democratic institutions be strengthened. Although change would take time, efforts must be made to move towards a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Mrs. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) said that while her delegation supported the notion of UN reform, it could not support the call to increase the permanent membership of the Security Council, since that would just further entrench the privileges of a limited few countries. Veto rights should be reformed, and the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly should be reviewed. The United Kingdom, despite being a permanent member of the Security Council, had not respected Security Council resolutions with regard to the Falkland Islands/Malvinas. Secrecy in the running of international financial institutions undermined democracy and generated mistrust. The IMF must, therefore, reveal the anticipated impact of its recommendations and programmes on poverty and employment. The work of the WTO must also be more transparent in order to foster fairer trade.

Intellectual property rights should be adjusted to redress the balance between producers and consumers, particularly in developing countries. To that end, the patent system should be reformed. When large pharmaceutical companies patented traditional medicines, they ran small local companies out of business and prevented the poor from accessing medicines.

Turning to the amendments she had proposed to the draft resolution, she said that in preambular paragraph 2, "world resources" should be replaced by "natural resources". She had proposed an amendment to preambular paragraph 7 to avoid gender stereotyping. Rather than calling for mandatory registers of lobbyists in operative paragraph 6, registers of accredited observers should be required.

Mr. SUN WENSHENG (China) said that the global economy was still weak and instability and protectionism were increasing. Global challenges, such as food and energy security, climate change and natural disasters were also on the rise. All countries were struggling to cope with that situation. The global community must respect the leadership role of the United Nations in international affairs. The United Nations was the most representative organization in the world and had played a crucial role in promoting global peace and economic and social development. It remained the premier platform for multilateralism. China supported the call for UN reform in order to make it a more effective and relevant institution. The international financial system must also be reformed to establish a fair and inclusive international financial order. Global financial governance and international monitoring thereof should be improved. International development agencies must increase their capacity to reduce poverty and close the gap between the rich and the poor. New economic governance must be representative, equitable, and results-oriented. All countries were equal members of the international community, and must work together in a spirit of solidarity to rise to the challenges facing humanity.

Mr. H. MOHAMMED (United Republic of Tanzania) said that although all UN Member States were equal, some were "more equal" than others. True equality was essential. Members of parliament must respect their constituents and share their power with the people. Debt should be taken into account when considering the redistribution of power and wealth, since it was a severe burden to developing countries. Although donor countries were promising to send aid, only 30 per cent of aid pledged had actually been received. While large multinational corporations set up offices in developing countries in order to benefit from low prices, they were not upholding corporate social responsibility standards and their presence was seriously affecting the local population. Resource distribution was uneven. The President of Uganda had recently pointed out that at one time, a kilo of Ugandan coffee, worth US\$ 1 in Uganda, used to be sold for US\$ 14 in Europe. All of the profits made on that coffee went into European pockets. Products from developing countries should have the same value in developing countries as they did in developed ones.

Ms. V. MATA (Venezuela) explained that her delegation had submitted amendments to the draft resolution, calling for the democratization of international organizations. Those organizations were currently implementing a neoliberal policy that was designed to bolster international corporations to the detriment of developing nations. Democratization should be based on the principles of joint responsibility, solidarity and social justice, and a complementarity should exist between peoples and their governments. Venezuela had a humanistic, sovereign and fair approach to its participation in international and regional institutions.

The IMF served specific interests of the great powers, and did not take into account the needs of developing economies. Venezuela therefore called for the democratization of the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF, whose existing policies had resulted in a neoliberal crisis. The people of Venezuela had risen up against those policies. The Venezuelan Government was working hard to develop the economy and improve the lot of Venezuelan people. Venezuela's debts were being paid off, and Venezuela had considerable oil reserves at its disposal. The United

States Government was therefore trying to thwart Venezuela on the international stage. Venezuela was simply demonstrating its sovereignty and trying to promote social and economic development. Economic growth was being achieved and Venezuela was becoming increasingly independent. The government was determined that Venezuela would be respected by other countries.

Ms. J. LOGIE (New Zealand) said that New Zealand shared the sense of crisis and urgency with regard to climate change and the growing dissatisfaction with the distribution of power and wealth. That dissatisfaction was a sign of hope. The global community faced considerable challenges as it considered how to cope when supplies of finite resources that had always been taken for granted would come to an end. Cooperation through joint action and redistribution of power were essential to meet those challenges. The redistribution of wealth was not charity, but rather a less than adequate repayment of debt: too many countries had achieved wealth by exploiting others and their own indigenous peoples. New Zealand had established a process of reconciliation with its indigenous people. With regard to the redistribution of power, she said that the underrepresentation of Pacific island States in the IPU was particularly worrying given that those States were the most severely affected by climate change. Some of those nations were preparing to lose their territory altogether. With regard to countering the effects of climate change, urgent action was required. Women's participation in public life and decision-making was crucial to ensure that the work of decision-making bodies nationally and internationally was for the benefit of all – women and men.

Mr. C. WINBÄCK (Sweden) said that sustainable development could not be achieved without including everyone in society. Without the equal participation of women in politics, investments in maternal health would be lacking. Where freedom of expression was limited, popular movements would not be able to change attitudes. When power was passed from father to son the struggle to keep hold of personal power became more important than well-being and social and economic development. The international community must work together to build democratic societies worldwide. Recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East had been based on respect for human rights for all. The need for a well-functioning global arena for international cooperation and conflict resolution was now more urgent than ever. A strong United Nations was crucial, and Sweden would support the changes necessary to achieve it, through contributions to peace, security and human rights. Efforts to promote disarmament were particularly important, since new threats were arising from countries preparing to produce nuclear weapons. The principle of equal rights for all was a fundamental pillar of democracy, and in that regard discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in many parts of the world, in particular in Africa, was deeply worrying. Steps must be taken to overcome the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, since it was hampering development, particularly in Africa.

Mr. N. MAHATO (India) said that although the global community was aware of the dramatic transformations taking place in the world, international governance structures had not kept abreast of those changes. The Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations must take those changes into account. The global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the prevailing contradictions in the management of the global economy. Several developing economies had managed to remain largely insulated from the crisis, maintaining remarkable levels of growth, while developed countries had fallen prey to economic downturn and recession. Only the concerted actions of the G20 had helped the world to deal with the crisis. The crisis had highlighted the need to associate major developing countries with global economic governance permanently and on an equal footing. The crisis had also brought to light the need to restructure global financial and regulatory institutions, which must be made more inclusive and reflective of the interests of developing countries. Steps must be taken to ensure that those in need received development aid with no strings attached.

The G20 had become the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Its creation had been considered a major step forward from the previous system of governance, in which there had been little communication and much acrimony between the G8 and the G77. Efforts to reform global financial governance, however, had, thus far, been inadequate. A fair and just trading regime should also be developed to take into account the needs of developing countries. The reform of the UN Security Council was also necessary to bring it into line with the geopolitical changes that had occurred since its establishment. Both its permanent and non-permanent membership should be increased. The IPU should also play a prominent role in advocating change and encouraging parliamentarians around the world to work to correct structural imbalances on international agendas and to ensure equitable and democratic global governance.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the comments made by the representative of New Zealand on the importance of reconciliation with indigenous peoples and the need to support small island developing States. Although he agreed with the representative of Norway that the redistribution of power would face hurdles and resistance, fear of such obstacles must not prevent action. Regional balance must be taken into account in the appointment of the UN Secretary-General. While he agreed that the UN Security Council must be recognized as an executive body that should act in the interests of humanity, it must function in a credible manner that took into account contemporary geopolitical realities. The world had changed considerably since the end of the Second World War, and huge challenges were facing the whole of humanity.

He thanked the representative of Zimbabwe for his comments and said that many brave people in Zimbabwe had been dedicated to ensuring that the principles that the IPU upheld could be applied in Zimbabwe. He agreed with the representative of Australia and said that global governance would be built on weak foundations if national governments were not representative and democratic. International theories must be applied at home. Global realities were indeed changing and economic influence was moving to China and South-East Asia. It was in the interests of those countries, therefore, to learn from mistakes of the past and build a strong and representative international system. Strong economic power was not sufficient to control the events taking place around the world or their consequences. Interdependence and strong international institutions were in everybody's best interests.

The PRESIDENT proposed that, pursuant to Rule 15 of the Rules of the Standing Committees on equitable geographic distribution, the drafting committee would comprise representatives of Australia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ecuador, India, Italy, Mexico, Oman, the Philippines, Sudan, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania.

He asked whether that proposal was acceptable to everyone.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

Sitting of Wednesday, 4 April

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Mr. S.E. Alhousseini (Saudi Arabia), President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution

(C-II/126/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to present the report of the deliberations on the draft resolution.

Ms. S. ZUBIN IRANI (India), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the drafting committee's work had been based on the revised draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs. The drafting committee had comprised representatives of Australia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ecuador, India, Italy, Mexico, Oman, the Philippines, Sudan, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Committee had elected Mr. D. Adams of Australia as its president. It had considered 93 amendments submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Senator Sonia Escudero of Argentina, and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Those amendments had been discussed at length and many had been incorporated into the text in letter or in spirit, in line with accepted IPU practices and principles. The drafting committee had worked in a spirit of compromise, and she hoped that the Second Standing Committee would consider the draft in the same constructive spirit.

The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Second Standing Committee to consider the draft resolution. He recalled that only amendments that had been submitted in writing before the statutory deadline could be reintroduced, but that sub-amendments could still be submitted.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) commended the high quality of the work of the two co-Rapporteurs and welcomed the results of the drafting committee's discussions. The revised draft was an improved text, which his delegation did not believe required any further amendment. He welcomed the support for the G20 expressed in the resolution. The establishment of the G20 had represented real progress in respect of international cooperation, and had demonstrated how different actors with divergent views and interests could work together towards common goals. He emphasized the importance of establishing a global economic council to work alongside the G20, rather than to replace it.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) expressed her delegation's satisfaction with the draft, which was both realistic and progressive. She hoped that a woman Secretary-General of the United Nations would be appointed in the near future.

The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any further comments he would take it that the Second Standing Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

The Second Standing Committee adopted the resolution by acclamation.

Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 126th Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Ms. Zubin Irani present the resolution on behalf of the Second Standing Committee to the Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparation of the 128th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had met and considered the relevant proposals for the subject to be discussed by the Second Standing Committee at the 128th IPU Assembly. Following an exchange of views, the Bureau had adopted by consensus the subject entitled: *Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development*. In the absence of any

comments or objections he took it that the Second Standing Committee approved the choice of subject for discussion.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that two co-Rapporteurs should be appointed to draft the report and resolution on the subject for discussion at the 128th IPU Assembly. In line with the Second Standing Committee's standard practice, one co-Rapporteur should be appointed from a developing country and the other should be from a developed country. The Bureau had received the nominations of Mr. F.-X. de Donnea of Belgium and Mr. R. Chitotela of Zambia to act as the two co-Rapporteurs. In the absence of any objections he would take it that the Second Standing Committee could approve those nominations.

It was so decided.

Election of the Bureau of the Second Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that pursuant to the Rules of the Standing Committees, the officers of the Bureau of each Standing Committee must be elected or re-elected at the first Assembly of the year. A titular member for the African Group and a substitute member for the Eurasia Group must be elected. All other members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election. Regarding the election of the President he asked whether the Committee would agree to re-elect the incumbent.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT announced that the African Group had nominated Mr. J.J. Mwimbu of Zambia as its titular member. The post of substitute member for the Eurasia Group would remain vacant pending a nomination. In the absence of any comments or objections he would take it that the Second Standing Committee approved that nomination and wished to re-elect all remaining members of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT declared the session of the Second Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to secure the health of women and children

Third Standing Committee - Democracy and Human Rights

Sitting of Sunday, 1 April 2012

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m., with Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), President of the Third Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-III/126/C)

The PRESIDENT said that the draft agenda had been distributed to all IPU Members and that no requests for amendments had been received. He therefore took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft agenda as it stood.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held in Panama on 16, 17 and 19 April 2011

The PRESIDENT said that no comments had been received in connection with the Summary Records of the session held in Panama on 16, 17 and 19 April 2011. He therefore took it that the Committee wished to approve them.

It was so decided.

Presentation of the report and the revised preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-III/126/R, C-III/126/DR-rev, C-III/126/DR-am and DR-am.1)

The PRESIDENT, noting the lead role played by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in coordinating the activities of UN agencies on issues of maternal health, invited its Executive Director to address the Committee on the chosen subject item, *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to secure the health of women and children*.

Mr. B. OSOTIMEHIN, *United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director* said that special attention was given to maternal and child health as part of the efforts under way to accelerate achievement of the MDGs by 2015. In the current age of technological advancement and unprecedented economic prosperity, the death of women and girls in the most fundamental human act of giving life was unacceptable. The draft resolution currently before the Committee therefore represented a landmark, not only by combining as it did all previous expressions of commitment to maternal and child health but also by bringing a distinct human rights perspective to the issue. Access to maternal and child health services was indeed a basic human right, not just a need, while the right to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning and maternal health, remained as relevant in 2012 as when it had been proclaimed in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

Now gaining much-needed momentum, the endeavour to achieve MDG 5 (Improve maternal health) included initiatives such as Every Woman Every Child, in which UNFPA was a leading partner. In conjunction with UNICEF, UNFPA had also established a high-level commission to advocate for better availability and accessibility of essential but underutilized supplies for maternal and child health. The imperative was to honour the political commitments made at the global, regional and country levels in order to turn the tide on maternal deaths and morbidity. On that score, parliaments had a critical role to play in terms of oversight and accountability by seeking progress reports from governments.

Working extensively with its partners, UNFPA sought to strengthen health care systems with a view to the equitable delivery of an integrated set of services for women and girls, including through the provision of adequate human resources, most notably health workers with midwifery skills, and of the supplies needed to ensure their effective performance. Greater access to voluntary family planning as an integral part of primary health systems was another key to the empowerment of women to decide freely as to the number and timing of their children. In short, universal access to family planning could substantially reduce maternal deaths, abortions in developing countries and infant mortality, simultaneously producing savings on other health care costs. UNFPA remained fully committed to working through the IPU to achieve MDG 5 and a world in which every pregnancy was wanted, every childbirth was safe and every young person's potential was fulfilled.

The PRESIDENT, turning to the report on the subject item (C-III/126/R) and the accompanying revised preliminary draft resolution (C-III/126/DR-rev), invited the co-Rapporteurs to present their work to the Committee.

Mr. F. SARDINHA (India), *co-Rapporteur*, introducing the report, said that the initial version presented to the Committee at the 125th Assembly in Bern had since been refined on the basis of input provided by delegations at that time. The updated version accordingly incorporated additional areas deemed worthy of emphasis, specifically: prevention of maternal and child deaths; strengthening health systems in developing countries; children living in conflict and post-conflict zones; the devastating impact of female genital mutilation (FGM); HIV/AIDS-related matters; the parliamentary contribution to ensuring the right to health; the role of parliamentary caucuses; the link between gender equality and the right to health; increased, long-term and scaled-up investment; adequate political space for enabling debate and oversight of budgetary allocations for maternal and child health, together with access to relevant information and parliamentary collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

No all-inclusive development goal could be achieved without assistance for women and children. Parliamentarians had prime responsibility for the oversight of government actions aimed at improving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. It was also their job to ensure that the goal of health for all was unimpeded by financial constraints and lack of resources. Healthy mothers and children were instrumental to building a better future for all.

Ms. P. TURIAHIKAYO (Uganda), *co-Rapporteur*, presenting the preambular paragraphs of the revised preliminary draft resolution, drew attention to the foundational frameworks and declarations listed in the preamble on the basis of their critical relevance to the subject item. They were comprehensive, clear and consistently provided for the right to health.

The preamble also highlighted numerous concerns relating to maternal and child health, specifically the unacceptably high figures for maternal and under-five mortality; the lack of progress in many countries towards achievement of MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (Improve maternal health); the key impediment of weak and poorly-resourced health systems; the low contraceptive prevalence rates; the inadequacy of infant nutrition; and the needs and rights of women and children belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Lastly, the preamble underlined the preventable nature of most maternal and child deaths, many of which

were the result of conditions that were treatable through cost-effective interventions, and the compelling rationale for prioritizing women's and children's health in development strategies. She urged support for the draft resolution and its subsequent implementation.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada), *co-Rapporteur*, focusing on the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, said that deliberate emphasis had been placed on the concrete steps that parliamentarians could take in order to improve maternal, newborn and child health. They themselves had documented the need for accelerated action and the challenges to be overcome on that score, as indeed had governments and multilateral and NGOs. Attention must now be centred on implementation. The draft resolution thus urged parliamentarians *inter alia* to generate the political will necessary to achieve the MDGs by 2015, with an emphasis on the human-rights approach; to introduce and amend relevant legislation in conformity with international human rights obligations; to uphold gender equality and the right to health, including access to maternal and child health services; to promote ratification of core international human rights instruments; to legislate for equal access to all health services for women and children; to criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls; to provide effective oversight of budgetary appropriations, commitments and programmes relating to maternal and child health; to ensure integrated and evidence-based health interventions and to adopt innovative approaches to health design and delivery. Crucially, the IPU was also requested to develop an accountability mechanism for monitoring implementation of the resolution between the date of its adoption and 2015.

Notwithstanding the many challenges and regional disparities to be addressed, the parliamentary actions identified were not unrealistic in the light of the capacity already demonstrated for overcoming complex problems in progressing towards the realization of certain MDGs. As for MDGs 4 and 5, their attainment was essentially dependent on the implementation of and accountability for the commitments made, while the improvement of maternal and child health was not so much a purely humanitarian objective as an indisputable need in view of the consequences for economic development and societal advancement. In fulfilling the commitments embodied in the MDGs and the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, the positive impact of parliamentary action could not be underestimated. The parliamentary role of awareness-raising, oversight and monitoring was also critical. In short, the commitments set out in the draft resolution constituted a good first step for the establishment of a clear, ambitious and robust framework for parliamentary action to improve maternal and child health.

Debate

Ms. T. BOONTONG (Thailand) said that maternal health was among the everyday challenges facing her country, which aimed to empower individuals to promote their own health, strengthen access to health services as a basic right and provide integrated national public health systems. The universal health insurance in place was designed to ensure equal right of access to quality health services for all, including vulnerable groups, for whom medical treatment was free of charge. Maternal health was promoted through antenatal care, which helped to prevent premature births and reduce maternal and child mortality, as did the measures introduced for the early detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS in pregnant women. A party to numerous international conventions relating to women and children, Thailand was committed to programmes for the attainment of MDGs 4 and 5; indeed, MDG 5 was among the 2015 targets it had already achieved. The role of parliamentarians was crucial to securing maternal and child health through, for instance, action to increase health investment and health capacity-building; oversight to bridge gaps, improve reproductive health and safe motherhood, including among adolescents, and promote innovation and research; and the development of a national budget

that enabled the continuing expansion of health coverage for women and children. Her delegation supported the draft resolution.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ (France) said that, while the draft resolution largely reflected her delegation's concerns and a broad consensus, her delegation had nonetheless proposed five amendments. The first, relating to birth control, had been inspired by recommendation 7.2.1 adopted by the Global Summit of Parliamentarians ahead of the G8 and G20 Summits, held in Paris in May 2011 on the theme *Girls and population: the forgotten drivers of development*. Similarly inspired by recommendation 7.1.3 of the Global Summit, its second proposed amendment entailed the addition of forced and early marriages to the forms of violence meriting criminalization. The third underscored the importance of specific financial measures to meet the maternal and child health needs in least developed countries, where annual health expenditures were as low as US\$ 27 per person. The fourth sought to emphasize the role of results-based objectives and the shared responsibility of donor and beneficiary countries in the case of ODA. The fifth highlighted the need for improvement in such areas as sanitation and access to safe drinking water. Maternal, newborn and child health policies were therefore part of a coordinated approach involving medical actions in the context of a wider socio-economic strategy.

Mr. S.N. MOUSAVI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that many countries unfortunately lagged behind in their achievement of the MDGs, which essentially constituted not only a development programme but also recognition of the right to development. Insufficient progress in the field of health was often due to poor governance. Parliamentarians could do much to improve that situation, but the international community also shouldered part of that responsibility. The quality of health services, for instance, was inevitably affected by any shortage of skilled health professionals, including birth attendants, whose assistance to women during labour was a major factor in the prevention of maternal and newborn deaths. The migration of health professionals to the developed world was therefore a worrying trend that carried adverse consequences for the delivery of health services in their native countries. Parliamentary action in both the sending and receiving countries offered by far the most effective means of addressing the problem. Parliamentarians should also use the oversight and accountability tools at their disposal to ensure that all commitments relating to attainment of the MDGs by 2015 were fully honoured, particularly with respect to ODA provision. For its part, the IPU must seek to generate and sustain the political will needed for dealing effectively with those issues.

Ms. M.V. MONTERERÍN (Spain) said that, as had been proposed by her delegation, the new Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure should be included among the instruments listed in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution with a view to its ratification by the largest possible number of countries for the benefit of victims of child abuse. A key factor in the improvement of maternal and child health was the fight for gender equality and the eradication of cultural ills such as gender violence and FGM, which should be tackled through criminal legislation. Parliaments should also seek to raise public awareness of the need to eliminate such practices. Covering issues ranging from contraceptive use to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), sexual and reproductive health was similarly key to the reduction of maternal and child mortality. In that regard, women's ability to decide freely whether to have children was vital. Parliamentarians could additionally do much to assist women by ensuring that fathers were held legally responsible for sharing the cost of raising their children.

Ms. V. CONCEIÇÃO (Angola) said that the right to health was enshrined as a fundamental right in the constitutions of democratic States, which were accordingly entrusted with creating the basic premises for its realization. The inclusion of health concerns in the MDGs constituted an acknowledgement of the difficulties facing health sectors worldwide. Particularly alarming were

the statistics relating to maternal and child health and to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Governments must promote the integration of health into public policies, with an emphasis on such factors as water, sanitation, nutrition and access to health facilities. Parliaments were well placed to influence and monitor the elaboration and implementation of those policies, providing input gathered through communication with their constituents and urging new measures for improving health management and investment in areas that included preventive health care and health systems restructuring. The promotion of maternal and child health and the development of preventive actions were key to reducing mortality and building commitment to improving the quality of life. The Angolan Government actively encouraged parliamentarians to scrutinize and oversee the concrete steps being taken to fulfil its international commitments with respect to attaining the MDGs, which included an integrated district programme to combat hunger and poverty.

Mrs. G. REQUENA (Venezuela) said that her delegation's proposed amendments to the draft resolution touched on two particularly important issues: the use of information and communication technology, including telemedicine, to reach mothers and children in remote areas; and training for personnel at the various levels of care within the health system, with the support of national and regional initiatives. Also advocated was the conclusion of regional agreements to foster and strengthen cooperation, complementarity and humanitarian assistance for children, adolescents and women. In the 13 years of the Bolivarian Revolution, public health had improved through action by parliament, which oversaw the country's health budget and health-related investments. It also monitored the government's fulfilment of health commitments, notably with respect to the constitutional right to health. Laws had been enacted on matters such as gender equality, reproductive health and protection for women and children against violence and abuse. Attention was also devoted to family planning and to improvements aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality, particularly in remote areas. As a result of such measures, satisfactory progress towards the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 had already been made.

Ms. R.M. ALBERNAZ (Portugal) said that children in particular benefited from the development of health care, which generally led to improvements in infant mortality and average life expectancy. The delivery of robust and adequate health services nonetheless entailed universal access to health care on a non-discriminatory basis. Intensive efforts were still needed, however, in order to instil non-discrimination as a fundamental value. In many countries, for example, homosexuality was still regarded as a crime punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty, which was unacceptable in any just and inclusive society, as was the encouragement of persecution based on sexual orientation. Attempts to justify the criminalization of homosexual conduct with religious arguments were particularly appalling and manipulative in inciting hatred against anyone who was different. Building equality was not easy but some countries had made remarkable strides in combating discrimination and homophobia. IPU Members should join forces with those calling for justice and respect for all human beings. The world's millions of homosexuals deserved equal treatment before the law and recognition of their identity and right to inclusion. It was for parliamentarians to legislate for a fairer society, which meant enacting laws against discrimination and deep-seated hatred.

Mr. J.C. ANTONIO (Zambia) said that his country's Vision 2030 prioritized the health sector with the aim of ensuring universal access to health, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and achieving the health-related MDG indicators. All infant, neonatal and child mortality indicators had significantly declined as a result of child health measures and the scaling-up of efforts for the prevention and treatment of malaria and HIV/AIDS. The MDG target of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 would also be achieved if the current trend of decline in prevalence rates continued. Issues central to MDGs 4 and 5 were the focus of a parliamentary committee on health, community development and social welfare, which also

oversaw the relevant ministries. Parliament had both women's and children's caucuses and a forum on population and reproductive health issues, with each group playing a critical role in reviewing proposed legislation relating to maternal, newborn and child health and ensuring that key concerns for women and children were aired in parliament. In his own constituency, women met on a monthly basis to exchange information on improving maternal and child health through nutrition. Rural health workers also vaccinated under-fives against poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles and mumps. He expressed support for the draft resolution.

Mrs. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus) said that health care activities that focused on women's and children's rights gave added value to any health policy and also raised awareness of the link between basic human rights and healthy living standards. Despite good intentions, little progress had been made in the area of maternal and child health. Dramatic evidence had recently showed that, along with education level and living environment, social class was among the risk factors for women's health. Parliamentarians must work with the IPU to ensure that public health systems offered free medical services for women, including gynaecological and obstetric care, family planning advice, mammography, and screening for cervical cancer and osteoporosis. Special attention should also be paid to the prevention of occupational diseases affecting women, the employment of women health professionals for women patients and HIV/AIDS information, prevention and support services for women. Practices to be eliminated included FGM, prenatal sex selection and infanticide. Statistics furthermore attested to the many thousands of annual deaths of women during pregnancy, labour and unsafe abortion. Support by organizations such as the Cyprus Family Planning Association for implementation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Health was therefore well justified.

Ms. T. TAMURA (Japan) said that the MDG-related initiatives conducted by the international community had led to major achievements, including a substantial global reduction in under-five mortality. Millions in that age group continued to die, however, and every year, many thousands of women lost their lives to maternity-related causes. The fact that many of those deaths were preventable was matter of serious consideration for parliamentarians. Education was vital to the achievement of health goals; educational disparities had been identified as a major factor in the perpetually high adolescent pregnancy and birth rates in some countries, while lack of education had a negative impact in such areas as family planning, HIV prevention and infant health. Her delegation had therefore proposed an amendment to the draft resolution calling for strengthened support for education with a view to improving child and maternal mortality. Insofar as ODA progress and results in recipient countries should be subject to parliamentary monitoring and evaluation, it had also proposed an amendment relating to mechanisms for that purpose. Her country's parliament had already been long engaged in such exercises in order to focus on, inter alia, the degree to which mortality and other statistics had improved as a result of ODA.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) said that the daily figures for deaths from pregnancy and childbirth were higher than those from tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS combined. Why were 30 times more resources allocated to combating those diseases than to combating maternal mortality when every minute one woman died or was seriously injured while giving birth? In many countries, efforts to prevent maternal mortality were unfortunately seen as controversial and women's rights were too often restricted for reasons of religion, tradition and culture. Her delegation was grateful for the support received from the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians for its proposed amendments to the draft resolution, which were designed to emphasize the need for skilled birth attendants; recognize the lack of access to contraceptives as a major contributing factor to maternal mortality; foster actions for age-appropriate and gender-sensitive sexual education for all young people; note the role of unsafe abortions in maternal mortality rates; and

encourage the decriminalization of abortion and abortion safety in order to save lives. Political leadership was vital to efforts for improving maternal health. Parliamentarians were thus bound to take immediate action to protect women and children against the consequences of unacceptable and dangerous birth conditions.

Mrs. C.B. JAYASINGHE (Sri Lanka) said that women accounted for just over half of the Sri Lankan population and children for over one third. Since its independence in 1948, the country's performance with respect to the major health indicators had been exemplary. Free public health services were available to all, without gender discrimination, and its reproductive health services had been singled out as the best in the region; almost all childbirths took place in an institution and the risk of pregnancy-related death for women was significantly lower than elsewhere. As for the MDGs, Sri Lanka had already largely set the benchmark for the region; excluding the goals of combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating extreme poverty, it was over halfway towards their attainment. A recent government survey had nonetheless indicated that, despite the vibrant health service, considerable numbers of Sri Lankan children were stunted, wasted and underweight for their age, which was a matter of great concern. The children most affected came from districts where there had been wide-scale displacement of the population owing to the civil war that had continued until late May 2009. Families in those districts struggled to make ends meet as the price of staples and other food items soared.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile) said that her country pursued a human-rights approach to health, precluding any narrow focus on maternal and child health. Concerning the MDGs, parliamentarians must determine their role with respect to bridging the gap and securing the health needs of women and children. Health systems were often uncompetitive and lacking in resources, mortality rates were unacceptably high and support for midwives was sometimes non-existent. Concerted efforts were needed to eradicate both FGM, which posed serious health risks for women, and HIV/AIDS, which caused countless deaths, including among children to whom the virus was transmitted during pregnancy. While support for maternal and child health programmes in developing countries was essential, pharmaceutical companies should also play their part by reducing the cost of immunization against preventable diseases. The IPU must likewise do its utmost to promote progress towards attainment of the MDGs by 2015, which demanded budget increases and transparent spending for the delivery of essential health services. As a result of MDG-related parliamentary action in her country, the infant mortality rate had fallen and childhood diseases were no longer problematic, with the exception of mumps. Near-universal immunization coverage was anticipated by the end of 2012.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium) said that her experience as a gynaecologist and obstetrician had brought home the shocking truth about the many school-age young women who died unnecessarily owing to lack of essential obstetric care and family planning advice, which should be a matter of concern for all. Why had the least progress been reported with respect to the target under MDG 5 of reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio? The answer was that *inter alia* mortality was related to the rights of women and girls, including the right to health care and family planning. In that regard, she was pleased to be part of the UN Secretary-General's initiative as a member of the independent Expert Review Group on Women's and Children's Health. Parliamentarians should show leadership in their mandate by legislating and allocating funds for maternal and child health. In conclusion, she highlighted as particularly crucial among the numerous amendments to the draft resolution submitted by her delegation the proposed new preambular paragraphs 2bis, 3bis, 9bis and 15ter, as set out in document C-III/126/DR-rev.

Mrs. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland), noting the disturbing number of maternal deaths often due to preventable and treatable disease or to complications, said that the achievement of

MDG 5 was crucial to attainment of the remaining MDGs. Reproductive health improvement and health systems strengthening were therefore priorities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, with Switzerland firmly committed to promoting achievement of the health-related MDGs. Poverty, gender inequality and discrimination against women were among the many complex reasons for the prevalence of maternal mortality and morbidity, which could be reduced through priority measures to strengthen women's human rights. In countries with high prevalence rates, political leadership was particularly key to resourcing quality primary health care services focused on women and children, as well to realizing gender equality. Switzerland supported universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, regardless of sexual orientation and identity, including access to information and to integrated services comprising inter alia family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth assistance, emergency obstetric care, newborn care and safe abortion, as well as a referral system for women and girls. Parliamentarians must approve a higher level of funding for the ongoing implementation of such measures in the interest of eliminating maternal mortality.

Ms. R. GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ (Cuba) said that Cuba's infant mortality rate now stood at fewer than five deaths per 1,000 live births. Almost all children reached five years of age and virtually all births were institutional. Those statistics resulted from the political will to establish a universally accessible and free health care system based on the development of primary care. As befitted a country with limited resources, the main focus in Cuba was on prevention and health promotion, which were cheaper than cure. Maternal and child services included family planning, prenatal screening and surgical intervention. The purchase of equipment and medicines was, however, impeded by the illegal US blockade on Cuba, as was scientific exchange. Maternal and child health services would undoubtedly be better resourced with the lifting of that blockade. Cuban health professionals cooperated in the field of maternal and child health care in over 70 countries. Cuba's health care efforts were nonetheless inadequate for the Cuban woman to whom motherhood was denied for no other reason than her forced separation from her husband as a result of his illegal detention in the United States. Cuba therefore continued to call for his release and that of his four fellow Cubans similarly detained for over 13 years.

Ms. J. KATAAHA MUSEVENI (Uganda) said that her country had faith in its ability to achieve MDG 4; its infant mortality rate had fallen since 2006 from 70 to 54 deaths per 1,000 live births and children were consistently immunized against disease. The attainment of MDG 5 was a more challenging prospect. Although health centres had been established within easier access of many homes, the journey to reach them could still be long for some. For that reason, her delegation supported the draft resolution and she proposed that it call for more midwives and hospital shelters where women due to give birth could wait instead of having to travel long distances when already in labour, which often led to complications. Parliamentarians should nonetheless systematically engage in advocacy with a view to changing accepted practices that were detrimental. They could, for example, enlighten rural women as to the importance of giving birth in a health care facility with skilled health professionals at hand. With that in mind, she expressed the hope that the rural communities in Uganda would benefit from the funding for global initiatives mentioned in paragraph 44 of the report.

Mr. H.-M. WON (Republic of Korea) said that couples in his country were increasingly marrying later in life. Children were consequently more often born to women of a mature age, who were at higher risk of hypertension, diabetes, miscarriage, premature birth and prolonged labour. The maternal mortality rate was relatively high; the high-risk pregnancy associated with late childbearing could cause health issues for both mother and foetus, sometimes resulting in death, and public access to reliable information on healthy pregnancy and childbirth was unfortunately limited. A recent study had also found that pregnant women lacked knowledge about the pre- and postnatal stages. The unfeasibly low cost of delivery and the frequency of

medical disputes relating to childbirth had furthermore led to an imbalance in the provision of maternity services, which were unavailable in over one quarter of the country's regions. Measures benefiting pregnant women in the interest of improving maternal health and mortality rates included a gradual increase in financial assistance and the supply of folic acid supplements in order to prevent miscarriage and foetal deformities. Low-income families also received assistance from caregivers and a consultation service providing comprehensive expert health advice was available to mothers. Efforts were furthermore under way to improve access to health services in deprived regions.

Ms. E. KOWA (Sierra Leone) said that her country's health care system had been badly affected by the 10-year civil war. Owing to the collaborative efforts of government, donors and NGOs, however, free services were now offered to pregnant and breastfeeding women and under-fives, promoting a reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates. The role of parliamentarians in addressing the main challenges to securing maternal and child health ranged from legislation and accountability to monitoring and oversight. National health targets were set by a parliamentary health committee, but challenges remained, including the lack of any salt iodization policy, the inadequacy of rural ambulance services and the question of traditional birth attendants. With nutrition as another key determinant of newborn and child health, various NGOs were now implementing nutritious crop projects and Sierra Leone had joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement aimed at fighting hunger and undernutrition. More support for the implementation of such projects worldwide would help to reduce the burden on health systems. The drive and commitment to advocate for basic health care for pregnant and breastfeeding women and children must continue, as must higher budget allocations in order to meet the goals sought, for a healthy nation was a wealthy nation.

Mr. P. GRIMOLDI (Italy) said that realization of the right to health should be a top priority for publicly elected officials. If truth be told, medical research was now usually conducted with a profit motive and the health industry was indifferent to the needs of women and children in developing countries, with the result that health professionals in those countries often had no other option than to administer obsolete and ineffective treatments. Resources were needed to overcome such challenges to ensuring access to health, but finding those resources was a challenge in itself in the current economic climate. Inhabitants of his region of Italy enjoyed excellent and cost-effective health services, which were a public-private venture. In other countries, health services had been improved through the introduction of compulsory health insurance for nationals and non-nationals alike. The indications were, therefore, that health goals could be achieved through the introduction of such measures and the stimulation of private investment in health sectors.

Ms. S. BOYCE (Australia) said that the maternal and child mortality rates were generally low in Australia. However, in rural and aboriginal areas in particular, they were more than double the national average as a result of various problems, including the difficulty of access to services. Telehealth consultations and videoconferencing had therefore been instituted in order to minimize the disruption of travel at the same time as improving health outcomes. It was commendable that the draft resolution included both carrots and sticks. The incentives for education, funding and information were the carrots. The criminalization of all forms of physical and sexual violence against women and girls was among the sticks. It was imperative not to lose the sticks to the carrots in the final version.

Mrs. I. DKADEK (Jordan) said that services offered by her country's health system included free comprehensive health insurance for children under six years of age, immunization, pre- and postnatal health education, and family planning. Concerted efforts were being made to reduce maternal and child mortality with a view to attaining the targets set for 2015. With respect to the

report before the Committee, the omission of any reference to the suffering of mothers and children living in situations of conflict was notable. Those under occupation in Palestine, for example, were denied all the rights enshrined in international instruments, including the right to health. Many thousands of Palestinian mothers and children had died as a result of being denied access to hospitals, food, medicine and water, or from being attacked or bombed while at home, in school or simply crossing the street. What were the parliaments of the world doing about that situation? What plans were envisaged by the MDGs for the children of Palestine?

Mr. H. AL-MATAR (Kuwait) said that good health was key to the prosperity of society. In the poorest countries, the main victims of preventable and treatable diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, were children and young mothers. The lack of public services in those countries led to the death of 4 million newborns and 500,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth every year. Cervical cancer was also a leading cause of death among women in the developing world, whose health and that of their children was moreover endangered by chronic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa. Despite the progress achieved in preventive health, the under-five mortality rate in poor countries remained almost 10 times higher than in developed countries. Parliamentarians were responsible for enacting human rights legislation and affirming the principles enunciated in key human rights instruments. Kuwait had adopted measures for safeguarding the rights of women and children enshrined in its Constitution. It had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and taken the necessary steps for acceding to various other international human rights instruments. It went without saying that respect for all human beings and their dignity was an important tenet of Islam, as set forth in the Holy Koran.

Mr. J. AL-MAJDALAWI (Palestine) expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution. He said that the suffering of Palestinian women and children was compounded by the Israeli occupation. Indeed, the disastrous impact on their health was borne out by recent statistics: three quarters of new mothers and infants were anaemic; 35 per cent of cancer patients in the besieged Gaza Strip were women and 25 per cent children; 456 children had been killed in Israeli bombings over the past four years; scores of pregnant women had been forced to undergo labour at Israeli checkpoints after being denied passage to hospital; over three quarters of Palestinian households were without access to safe drinking water; and 57 per cent of newborns in the Gaza Strip were deformed as a result of their mother's exposure to white phosphorus and other substances used during Israeli shelling. The Palestinian people therefore called for action to lift them out of oppression. Scant resources notwithstanding, an end to the occupation would enable them to bring their skills and aspirations to bear in achieving good health outcomes, including for women and children. The draft resolution should include a reference to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and its consequences for the health of Palestinian women and children.

Mr. N. MAHATO (India) said that, constitutionally bound as it was to improve nutrition and public health, the Government of India had launched a national rural health mission and pursued a national health policy guaranteeing women greater access to basic health care. Funding for women's health programmes was a high priority and progress towards achieving the targets under MDGs 4 and 5 remained steady. Maternal and child mortality ratios had declined considerably in recent years, as had the number of women living with HIV/AIDS. Supplementary nutrition, immunization, health checks and referral services were among the benefits provided under a unique integrated child development scheme for children under six years of age, who made up 13 per cent of the population. Safe deliveries, immunization and family welfare were promoted through a reproductive and child health programme, while legislation relating to maternal and child health included stringent provisions to combat foetal sex selection and parliamentary committees were proactively engaged in making recommendations on health and family issues. As to the disparities in access to health care between developed and developing countries, they should be tackled through innovation, sharing of technology, medical education

and health care financing. Concerted efforts to secure maternal and child health were vital to all-inclusive development.

Appointment of a drafting committee

The PRESIDENT said that a large number of proposed amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution had been received within the statutory deadline. He therefore suggested that a drafting committee be appointed to prepare a final draft for consideration and approval by the Committee. The geopolitical groups were accordingly invited to propose candidates for membership of the committee, in conformity with the provisions of Committee Rule 15 concerning equitable geographical distribution, political and gender balance, and number of members. The co-Rapporteurs were also invited to participate in the drafting committee in an advisory capacity.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

Sitting of Monday, 2 April 2012

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m., with Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), President of the Third Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Debate

(continued)

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain) said that Bahrain was on track to achieve the MDGs before 2015, not least in that mothers and children were afforded protection under the Constitution, which also enshrined the right of all citizens to State-guaranteed health care. Bahraini citizens accordingly had free access to high-quality public health services. The efforts to strengthen maternal and child health care and sexual and reproductive health services had borne fruit; maternal deaths now averaged only two or three annually and the birth rate among adolescent girls had halved since 1990 as a result of awareness and education measures. Antenatal care coverage already exceeded the MDG 5 target and national guidelines were in place for, inter alia, postnatal care, family planning and training of health professionals. The few pregnant women infected with HIV also received drug therapy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). Under recent legislation, premarital screening for congenital and sexually transmitted diseases was compulsory and working mothers were entitled to 60 days of maternity leave and daily two-hour nursing breaks. An integrated law on children guaranteeing care of their physical and mental health was currently at the approval stage, which attested to continued importance given by the Bahraini Parliament to the situation of women and children.

Mr. T. MASHAMAITE (South Africa) said that parliamentarians were well placed to influence and promote national health policies for improving women's and children's access to quality health care services. They also had a role to play in ensuring the rights to basic health care for all. Over the past 15 years, the South African health system had been transformed. Current health policies were among the most progressive and comprehensive in the world, particularly in view of their recognition of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health rights. Adoption of the primary health care approach had altered the philosophical and structural orientation of the system. In addressing maternal and child health issues, the key challenges facing parliaments were lack of political space to inform the necessary budget allocations, lack of resources and lack of access to vital information. An accountability gap therefore persisted with respect to the provision of resources and implementation of programmes designed to improve

health outcomes for women and children. The present IPU Assembly created a platform where parliamentarians could undertake to achieve that goal, with a continuing focus on addressing the problems surrounding protection of the right of access to basic health care. His delegation supported the draft resolution.

Ms. J. CROWDER (Canada) expressed support for the draft resolution. She said that it was important to retain in the draft resolution the emphasis on human rights, in particular the health needs and rights of indigenous women and girls. With reference to paragraph 16 of the report, the description of women most likely to die in their lifetime from pregnancy-related causes - poor, rural, inadequately educated and of unequal status in their communities - applied to indigenous women and girls in many countries. A mention in the draft resolution to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women would be welcome, given its value as a tool in the continuing efforts to examine the inequities facing women and children, particularly those in the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report. Lastly, fistula was a condition so prevalent among women in the developing world that it deserved a mention in the preamble of the draft resolution in acknowledgement of the fact that it jeopardized their ability to live in their communities.

Mr. W. MADZIMURE (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe's national health strategy was founded on the notion of equitable and quality health care as a human right, premised fundamentally on the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of health-related services, goods and facilities. It was likewise premised on the pursuit of complementary approaches to the realization of that right, which was to be enshrined in the country's new draft constitution as a result of efforts by a parliamentary portfolio committee on health and child welfare. The committee's continual advocacy for free health care services for children and pregnant women had also led to a successive reduction in the medical fees charged to them. PMTCT services, however, was free of charge, as were STD treatments, condoms and male circumcision procedures. Maternal and infant mortality figures were high owing to the high percentage of births occurring without skilled attendance. The Committee therefore also advocated for a better geographical distribution of accessible health-care facilities and for improved mobile outreach and ambulance services. It worked in addition to ensure the ongoing benefit from and diligent use of donor resources and to follow up on the fulfilment of pledges, such as that made in 2001 to allocate 15 per cent of the annual budget to the health sector. He expressed his support for the draft resolution, in particular paragraphs 10, 20, 26 and 27.

Mr. N. LAZREK (Morocco) said that, under the newly amended Constitution, Morocco's public authorities were bound to mobilize every available resource for facilitating the fundamental right of equal access to health care, social protection and medical coverage for all citizens. Notwithstanding the inadequacy of budgetary allocations to the health sector in 2012, a medical assistance scheme was soon to be reinstated with a view to fighting health inequalities among the disadvantaged groups who constituted over one quarter of the population. Additional efforts must be made, however, to channel more budgetary resources into maternal and child health, although maternal mortality rates had already more than halved owing to inter alia free antenatal care, improved rural maternity services, a lower fertility rate and an increase in births attended by skilled health personnel. A legal vacuum remained, however, with respect to both voluntary abortion in the event of unwanted pregnancies and the case of adolescents whose physical and mental health was placed at risk by early marriage. Under-five mortality had also fallen, whereas infant mortality remained high. Donors were urged to facilitate the oversight task of parliamentarians by specifically advising them of any health funding provided to their countries, particularly if intended to promote achievement of the health-related MDGs.

Lord FAULKNER (United Kingdom), focusing on the amendment to the draft resolution proposed by his delegation on the subject of tobacco control, said that the many millions of tobacco-related deaths and illnesses worldwide attested to the lethal nature of tobacco, the only legal product likely to kill half of its users. Up to 2 per cent of the world's annual GDP was wasted on treatments for smoking-related conditions and over half a million non-smokers, mainly women and children, died annually through exposure to second-hand smoke. Irrespective of conclusive scientific evidence and moral arguments, however, the tobacco industry had in its time denied the link between smoking and disease; suppressed its own findings on the addictive properties of nicotine; attempted to frustrate smoke-free legislation and other anti-smoking measures; and channelled vast resources into undermining United Nations-backed campaigns against tobacco use. It now concentrated on the low- and middle-income countries, where 80 per cent of smokers lived. Compliance with the guidelines of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization (WHO) was therefore crucial to ensuring that health policy development was in no way influenced by the tobacco industry. Agreement to his delegation's proposed amendment would potentially contribute to a new health policy benefiting generations to come.

Ms. T.K. KNUTSEN (Norway) said that, notwithstanding the visible progress achieved in reducing child mortality, much remained to be done. The annual global figure of 7.6 million child deaths was unacceptable, particularly as 90 per cent of them were preventable. The percentage of children dying within the first month of birth had also increased significantly since 1990, indicating that efforts to attain the MDGs were too little focused on key areas, such as family planning and pregnancy. As for maternal mortality, the situation had scarcely improved since 2000 and most deaths could likewise have been avoided if health services were adequate. The Every Woman Every Child movement was a step in the right direction. Access to health services must be universal and measures to reduce maternal and child mortality should be based on science and best available knowledge, with qualified and well-trained health personnel playing a major role. In the absence of such professionals, however, simple knowledge at the family level could positively assist local communities. Maternal and child health was also related to such other matters as natural environment, climate change, good governance, political stability, and socio-economic and cultural factors, including equal opportunities. It should be placed firmly at the top of the political agenda.

Mrs. A. TJONGARERO (Namibia) said that a lack of emergency obstetric care services, inadequate nutrition, HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure and poor rural road infrastructure were among the causes of maternal and child mortality in Namibia. The maternal and reproductive health policy framework developed to address those issues was supported by a number of programmes and initiatives, including a road map outlining strategies, measures and guidelines for reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity. In recognition of the need for a multi-sectoral approach, initiatives involving all key stakeholders had also been established to cover such matters as the construction of antenatal accommodation facilities in remote constituencies; maternal, perinatal and neonatal care training for nurses; the elaboration of a national food and nutrition strategy; the proposed incorporation of emergency obstetric care into the nursing and midwifery curricula; and the expansion of PMTCT services to 90 per cent of health facilities. With donor funding on the wane, adequate budgetary provision must be made to ensure that past gains were not reversed. In that regard, parliamentary committees on health and gender had a monitoring and evaluation role to play in holding the executive to account for honouring national and international commitments and reflecting maternal and child health issues in health sector plans.

Mr. M. ELHAZMI (Saudi Arabia) said that the State guaranteed the right of access to health care in his country. The quality of health care in all public and private facilities was likewise

guaranteed by law, as was patient safety. Premarital screening tests were conducted in order to detect common congenital diseases and serious communicable diseases, such as viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, and had proved to be an effective preventive tool, particularly when accompanied by awareness and education campaigns. With respect to the draft resolution before the Committee, it should take into account differing views, traditions and customs in the interest of ensuring its adoption and subsequent implementation. As currently drafted, however, some of its provisions were incompatible with the social morals prevailing in Muslim countries. Others, however, clearly had merit, such as the proposed new preambular paragraph 1bis emphasizing the need to tackle problems of ill health caused by the smoking of tobacco and tobacco products, and the proposed new preambular paragraph 13septies affirming the importance of comprehensive sexual education for young people that was age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and life skills-based.

Ms. J. MACALESHER (Penal Reform International) said that women and girls comprised the minority of prisoners worldwide, amounting to not more than 9 per cent of the total prison population. Prison infrastructure and personnel were accordingly oriented towards a male prison population, frequently overlooking the specific needs of women and girls. Women in detention had a heightened vulnerability with respect to certain health needs, which were often unmet by prison services. Examples included needs relating to sexual or physical abuse, whether taking place before detention or thereafter as a result of inadequate protection and oversight mechanisms within the prison system; the increased risk of infection with tuberculosis, HIV and other blood-borne diseases; and reproductive health issues in the case of women detained while pregnant or caring for a new baby. IPU Members were therefore urged to incorporate into their national legislation the standards set for meeting such needs within the criminal justice system, as articulated in the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, adopted in 2010 and known as the Bangkok Rules. They were equally urged to promote national policies that prioritized effective implementation of those Rules.

Ms. A. NAUMCHIK (Belarus) said that the IPU focus's on the role of parliaments in addressing the protection of maternal and child health was crucial. Her own parliament had endeavoured to create an environment that was conducive to meeting the MDG targets, including those relating to maternal and child health, which had essentially been accomplished. Efforts were now centred on improving the quality and sustainability of the progress attained and ensuring equal access to medical services for both rural and urban populations. The country's low maternal mortality ratio was attributable to the implementation of safe maternity principles, including with respect to prenatal and obstetric care. The achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 formed an integral part of the public policies and programmes in place. The reduction of neonatal mortality and the incidence of birth complications was, for instance, among the aims of a recently adopted national programme for demographic security, and a presidential programme benefiting children was being implemented, together with programmes for the development of medical care, including HIV/AIDS prevention. Maternal and neonatal health care was free of charge, as were reproductive health services, and immunization against childhood diseases was compulsory.

Mr. V. NEATOBEI BIDI (Chad) expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution. He said that laws relating to maternal and child health enacted in his country covered such matters as the promotion of reproductive health, protection for persons with disabilities, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Funding was in place for an anti-malaria project and a modern women's and children's hospital had been established. Emergency gynaecological and obstetric care was among the facilities provided free of charge in public facilities, together with antiretroviral drugs and treatment for such diseases as malaria, leprosy and tuberculosis. Efforts to improve the maternal mortality ratio were under way as part of an Africa-wide campaign. Parliament used its

oversight functions to question government action on health issues and monitor the use of external assistance within the framework of the health-related MDGs. It engaged in debate on progress towards achievement of those MDGs and in raising awareness of public health care issues. It was also working with the government to establish mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of health programmes and the equitable allocation of resources among the country's health facilities, including for health personnel training.

Ms. M. OSMAN GAKNOUN (Sudan) indicated that her delegation supported the draft resolution. She said that governments were responsible for securing the plans, programmes and funding needed to ensure maternal and child health, while parliaments were responsible for monitoring the implementation of those plans and programmes, as well as for oversight of the necessary budgetary allocations. Civil society shared the responsibility with parliament for raising health awareness at the grass-roots level in both rural and urban areas. The empowerment of local authorities to provide services at that level was also important in that they had the closest links with citizens. Training for midwives, particularly those working in village environments, was similarly important, as was their remuneration. With those ends in mind, countries must be helped to alleviate their poverty through measures such as training, technical assistance and debt cancellation. All blockades must also be lifted to enable the countries concerned to fulfil their duty of providing food, clean water, preventive health care and medical treatment for their citizens.

Ms. H. ESUENE (Nigeria) said that in Nigeria, a large country with a multi-ethnic population and multicultural traditions, the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) had been virtually eradicated. The marriage of minors remained commonplace, however, particularly in the northern states where the law on children's rights had not yet been domesticated. Legislators, federal agencies and NGOs were therefore engaged in convincing the influential traditional rulers in those states of the need to eradicate that practice with a view to preventing many deaths. Rooted in religious belief, the practice whereby women were prevented from attending hospital posed another major challenge. In southern Nigeria, the denial of inheritance rights was also a problem for widows, who suffered discrimination to the point of being driven from their homes. Domestic violence and rape were generally rife and the victims so often traumatized by the physical, mental and emotional stress and shame of stigmatization that they failed to seek help or report their experiences to the law enforcement agencies. As for rural health facilities, much could be swiftly achieved if parliamentarians were to adopt them as a voluntary project in order to oversee their functioning and obtain first-hand information relating to their staffing levels and other problems.

Mr. M.L. BAYIGGA (Uganda) said that he welcomed the reference in the draft resolution of various international instruments relating to maternal and child health but noted the omission of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, pursuant to which the members of the Organization of African Unity had pledged to set a target of allocating at least 15 per cent of their annual budget to the improvement of the health sector. In that most maternal and child deaths were preventable, governments were committing a silent and shameful genocide; sanctions should be imposed on those in breach of their obligation to establish access to health as a basic right. Performance was motivated by incentives, conviction or fear of sanctions. The draft resolution should therefore include measures for bringing to international attention States that complied with its provisions and naming and shaming those that failed to act on them. It should also set timelines for interventions and progress reports on implementation.

Mr. P. OKONG (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health) said that the Countdown to 2015 movement had recently issued an encouraging report on progress towards achievement of the health-related MDGs in the 75 countries where over 95 per cent of maternal

and child deaths occurred. High rates of stunting nonetheless persisted in those countries and over 40 per cent of births occurred in the absence of skilled attendants. Parliaments should use the evidence contained in the Countdown report as a tool for the development of country-specific measures to address key issues and promote equity. They should also work for the implementation of recommendations by the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, notably with respect to improving budget allocation and use. The draft resolution commendably formalized and promoted some of the parliamentary efforts already under way to improve maternal and child health. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) would report in 2012 on the implementation of commitments made by partners in the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. However, the development of national accountability mechanisms was crucial to improving oversight. What role did parliamentarians see themselves playing in the development of such mechanisms and what actions did they envisage with a view to improving maternal and child health?

Mr. S. GERMANN (World Vision International) said that he welcomed the IPU's leadership in finalizing a resolution aimed at enhancing access to health as a basic right through parliamentary action. The IPU must seek to ensure its implementation and the establishment of accountability measures for tracking progress, which might include formal sessions organized at future Assemblies to enable parliamentarians to report on actions taken in their countries. The inclusion of a reference in the draft resolution to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was a welcome proposal, while the human-rights approach underscored in preambular paragraph 2 was fundamental to the improvement of maternal and child health. He fully endorsed the proposal to refer to the stunting of children in preambular paragraph 7 and to MDG target 1.C in operative paragraph 3, and strongly recommended the adoption of new operative paragraph 20bis encouraging a coordinated approach to all matters pertaining to maternal and child health. Operating in 100 countries worldwide, his organization was fully committed to working with national parliaments to promote implementation of the resolution in the coming years.

Mr. L. AXELSSON (Sweden) said that lack of health care was a global problem leading to high rates of maternal deaths and unplanned pregnancies. Access to health care as a human right was unfortunately not the reality for many. In its proposed amendments to the draft resolution, his delegation had stressed the key role of midwives in promoting maternal and child health; as the ideal primary health care providers for pregnant women, assistance should be provided in support of their training and recruitment. Lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, was another major contributor to maternal mortality. Women were entitled to make decisions about their own bodies, but men shared the responsibility of working for realization of their right to safe and free abortion. The dream of starting a family was possible only through access to good health care, a luxury not available to many couples in the developing world, where women were often tragically vulnerable to illness, disability and even death owing to lack of access to comprehensive reproductive health services. Parliamentarians were responsible before all women and children for seeking to end the current state of affairs. The engagement of men in that fight was vital to its success.

Mrs. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland) expressed her delegation's support for the draft resolution. Focusing on her delegation's proposal to include a reference in preambular paragraph 11 of the draft resolution to measures for reducing the high number of unsafe abortions, she said that such abortions contributed significantly to maternal morbidity and mortality. A sensitive and controversial issue, abortion was among the most neglected of public health problems. Monitoring abortion figures was, however, crucial to evaluating progress towards the achievement of MDG 5 on the basis of improvements in maternal health. At the same time as the number of abortions had fallen between 1995 and 2008, the percentage of

dangerous abortions had risen. Research clearly showed that, irrespective of national laws, women turned to abortion, which in many cases involved risky procedures performed in unsanitary conditions by unqualified persons. In Switzerland, anti-abortion activists had been confounded by the fall in abortion numbers after the introduction of legal abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Ms. Y.-H. CHOI (Republic of Korea) said that gender impact assessments and gender-disaggregated statistics were core to enabling the practical implementation of policies and projects for promoting maternal and child health. The compilation of gender-disaggregated statistics had been mandatory since 2007 in her country, where a law on gender impact assessment had also been enacted in 2011. Against that background, it was possible to report that the gender impact assessment encouraged in operative paragraph 7 of the report must be preceded by the development of and access to the gender-disaggregated statistics and data called for in operative paragraph 23. The enactment of related laws had also proved effective in that regard. Progress towards the full realization of women's right to health would be enhanced if parliaments were to devote more attention to gender-specific medicine, which should be promoted and supported on the basis of gender-disaggregated data, such as that gathered through research on women's health care conducted by the Korean Society for Gender-Specific Medicine, established in 2005.

Mrs. A. ESHETE (Ethiopia) said that the Ethiopian Parliament played a vital role in improving the lives of citizens through its oversight of government activities in all socio-economic spheres, including the health sector. Its members were ultimately responsible for ensuring the right to health to all, with priority attention to women and children. Communicable diseases and malnutrition constituted major health problems and were a cause of child mortality in developing countries. Parliaments should adopt a pro-poor approach in focusing on social improvement and also take affirmative action for gender equality in the context of efforts to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality, which posed a challenge for most of those countries. For its part, Ethiopia was implementing a community-based health extension programme centred on the prevention and control of communicable diseases among women and children in particular.

Ms. P. KUMARI (India) said that safe motherhood and child survival were the two most daunting challenges associated with equitable access to health as a basic right, as indicated by the alarming figures for deaths among women from pregnancy-related complications and among the under-fives. In addition to resources from the developed world, the solution demanded appropriate gender-sensitive budgeting at the national level, as introduced in India, where rapid strides were being made in reducing maternal and child mortality through efforts to provide antenatal care, institutional delivery and postnatal care for all pregnant women and to immunize all newborns. Maternal deaths were also reviewed in order to identify service delivery gaps and determine corrective action, while obstetric procedures and neonatal care were provided free of charge in public health facilities on the basis of evidence that pregnant women were deterred by cost from seeking appropriate care. Together with breastfeeding mothers, they additionally received partial compensation for any wage loss in order to encourage them to rest in late pregnancy and after delivery instead of being compelled to work for economic reasons. A one-time cash incentive to encourage the use of skilled birth attendants was likewise paid as part of a safe motherhood programme.

Mr. J.C. MAHÍA (Uruguay) said that full health coverage was provided under the Uruguayan system, which was funded from three sources: the State, enterprises and workers. All citizens were free to choose their health provider from either the public or private sector. As to any AIDS vaccine, its effectiveness would be conditioned by the strain of disease and its acquisition would be dependent on price, bearing in mind that vaccine prices were often connected with the interests of the pharmaceutical and chemical industries. With respect to its policy on tobacco, his country was engaged in efforts to combat the influence of the tobacco industry on its three million inhabitants.

Ms. PANG LIJUAN (China) said that the role of parliaments was crucial to the promotion of maternal and child health. With 860 million inhabitants, China was the country with the largest number of women and children in the world. Having always attached great importance to that segment of its population, it had endeavoured to enact laws and regulations guaranteeing the protection of their health through measures such as screening for disease. Maternal and child health were also singled out as priorities in the country's socio-economic development plans, with improved outcomes as a result of the increased investment in the sector. Maternal and child mortality rates, for example, had fallen dramatically. China looked forward to working with the IPU with a view to further enhancing its legislation relating to maternal and child health.

Mr. T. AL-MAMARI (Oman) said that his country had broken new ground in the field of maternal and child health in particular, having worked with WHO to introduce a comprehensive programme offering quality services ranging from antenatal and neonatal care to child health care that included immunization against communicable diseases. Oman was well qualified to pursue the reduction of maternal and child mortality through the work of its health support teams. Voluntary groups were moreover engaged in activities to raise awareness of various issues, such as AIDS-related matters, and combat harmful behaviour, including drug and tobacco use. Oman also sought to uphold freedoms and to achieve justice, liberty and equality; citizens and migrant workers were treated as equals under its innovative labour laws and a human rights commission had been established. It would support any draft resolution aimed at relieving human suffering, particularly if related to the health of women and children. In that regard, however, it affirmed the specificity of Arab Islamic societies, which should be taken into consideration in the drafting of such texts.

Ms. W. NOWICKA (Poland) said that access to health had long been acknowledged as a human rights issue. Over a decade had passed since the global commitment to the MDGs had been made, yet much still remained to be done to improve maternal mortality, which was fully preventable but a major public health problem nonetheless, particularly in developing countries. It was unfair that women should still be dying in labour or as a result of unsafe abortion or other causes relating to reproductive health. Albeit to a lesser degree, maternal mortality was also a problem in some of the more developed countries. In Poland, for instance, women were not fully in control of their reproductive functions and faced obstacles in accessing modern contraception, which was seen as controversial. Young people also lacked sex education, the teenage pregnancy rate was correspondingly high and abortion was illegal. In order to promote and secure women's control over their reproductive lives, parliamentarians must engage responsibly in the process of honouring relevant international commitments undertaken. She therefore looked forward to adoption of the draft resolution in the hope that it would benefit women around the globe.

Appointment of a drafting committee

(continued)

The PRESIDENT announced that, on the basis of proposals received, the membership of the drafting committee would comprise delegates from: Chad, Kenya and Uganda for the African Group; Bahrain for the Arab Group; Australia for the Asia-Pacific Group; Uruguay and Venezuela for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Belgium, Sweden and the United Kingdom for the Twelve Plus Group. The Eurasia Group had not yet submitted its candidature and was invited to do so promptly. The PMNCH representative was also invited to participate in the drafting committee in the same advisory capacity as the co-Rapporteurs.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

Sitting of Wednesday, 4 April
(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.20 a.m., with Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), President of the Third Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution
(C-III/126/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to report on the preparation of a draft resolution on the subject item.

Ms. P. TURYAHIKAYO (Uganda), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, expressed her gratitude to the other co-Rapporteurs for their team spirit and tireless efforts over the past year and to the IPU Secretariat for its support and assistance. Those efforts had culminated in the draft resolution submitted by the drafting committee (C-III/126/DR-cr), which, in finalizing the text, had taken fully into consideration the amendments to the revised preliminary draft submitted within the statutory deadline by delegations (C-III/126/DR-am) and by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (C-III/126/DR-am.1). Under the outstanding chairmanship of Lord Faulkner, the drafting committee had scrutinized and discussed those amendments in turn, resulting in each case in a general consensus on their inclusion or admissibility. She hoped that the resulting draft resolution would now be approved in a similarly efficient manner. With respect to the more emotive and deeply contentious issues covered in the draft resolution, the committee had endeavoured to employ internationally agreed language. Particularly cognizant of the varied concerns and interests of IPU Members with respect to abortion, for instance, it had followed the guideline, adopted by the ICPD, whereby abortion-related matters were to be decided at the national level. All references to those matters in the draft resolution were therefore only intended for those countries where abortion was legalized.

Ultimately, the substance of most amendments had been incorporated into the draft resolution, which highlighted three key areas on which parliamentary action should focus: the human rights aspect of health, in particular the need for skilled health professionals, including midwives; the funding gap with respect to maternal, newborn and child health; and the challenges facing adolescents in accessing the information and services needed to secure their health. The draft resolution also requested the IPU to carry out various actions in the interest of ensuring implementation of its provisions before 2015. She looked forward to follow-up of the resolution at the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec.

Mrs. G. REQUENA (Venezuela) drew attention to an omission contained in the text of the amendment proposed by her delegation to preambular paragraph 26 of the draft resolution, as contained in document C-III/126/DR-am, which gave the entirely mistaken impression that her delegation was dismissive of the health needs and rights of indigenous women and children. Nothing could be further from the truth; the rights of indigenous peoples were paramount and must be vigorously upheld.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, *Secretary of the Committee*, said that he wished to place on record the apologies of the IPU Secretariat to the Venezuelan delegation for the unfortunate typographical error in which the reference to indigenous women and children had been inadvertently struck out in the English version of the document. It had been a genuine mistake.

LORD FAULKNER (United Kingdom), by way of corroboration, said that the Venezuelan delegation had very effectively conveyed during the discussions of the drafting committee its desire to retain the reference to indigenous women and children in the paragraph concerned,

which now appeared, with that reference intact, as preambular paragraph 37 in the final version of the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft resolution for consideration by the Assembly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said he also took it that the Committee wished to take note of the report prepared by the co-Rapporteurs.

It was so decided.

Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 126th Assembly

The PRESIDENT suggested that Ms. P. Turyahikayo of Uganda be appointed Rapporteur of the Committee to the 126th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparation of the 128th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Committee was required to submit to the Assembly its proposal for a subject item, within its field of competence, to be placed on its agenda for the 128th Assembly, due to take place in Ecuador in the first quarter of 2013. Having reviewed at its meeting of the previous day the nine proposals received for that purpose, the Bureau had decided to recommend two of those proposals for the consideration of the Committee, namely: *The use of social media to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*, submitted by the Canadian delegation; and *Legalization of drugs at the international level*, submitted by the Colombian delegation.

Ms. C. CHARLTON (Canada), referring to the topic proposed by her delegation, said that information and communication technologies (ICT) now enabled parliamentarians to reach out across distances to their public and to react swiftly to developments. In addition to facilitating communication with young people, social media provided many groups, including women, with an alternative to traditional forums in lobbying for change, while at the same time increasing expectations with respect to such matters as accountability and transparency. Barriers to communication and participation nonetheless persisted on account of the growing digital and democratic divides engendered by the gulf in technological expertise. Parliamentarians therefore used a combination of ICT and more traditional engagement tools. The new ICT-based participation in the democratic process did not, however, intrinsically contribute to democracy insofar as ICT could be used to enhance government controls. Social media were nonetheless perhaps changing the view of democracy and its functioning, particularly in countries where access to more traditional platforms of communication and democratic participation was limited. Although the IPU was already involved in various ITC-related activities, a number of social media issues intersected with its long-standing priorities, including democratic governance, political participation and youth engagement. Her delegation's proposed topic therefore merited consideration in the light of the opportunities and challenges created by social media.

Mr. J. AL-MAJDALAWI (Palestine), seconded by Mrs. I. DKADEK (Jordan) and Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain), said that his support for the proposal would be fully secured by the addition of a reference to the obstacles posed by occupation to the use of social media. Under the Israeli occupation of Palestine, for instance, access to social media was denied to the 27 duly elected Palestinian parliamentarians being held in Israeli prisons and to citizens whose ICT facilities were demolished or seized by the Israeli authorities.

The PRESIDENT said that such issues could be legitimately raised as part of the substantive discussion of the proposed topic, if adopted.

Mr. M. ELHAZMI (Saudi Arabia) said that he wished to propose for consideration a topic relating to the ethical framework for research into disabilities, particularly mental disorders among children.

The PRESIDENT said that, taking into account the existence of an IPU Handbook for parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Bureau had decided against recommending that topic for consideration.

Mr. A. ELISEEN (Netherlands), supported by Mr. I. CASSIS (Switzerland) and Mrs. G. REQUENA (Venezuela), expressed their opposition to the second proposed topic concerning the legalization of drugs at the international level. The other eight proposed topics been more relevant to the Committee's agenda. Moreover, the legalization of drugs was already a long-standing topic of international debate that was best addressed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), supported by Ms. J. KATAAHA MUSEVENI (Uganda) and Mr. W. MADZIMURE (Zimbabwe), said that the scope of the Canadian proposal should be broadened by referring to media in general rather than to social media in particular. Social media were little used in developing countries, where they consequently had no notable impact as a tool for enhancing citizen engagement and democracy. As to the topic of drug legalization, it was more relevant to the mandate of the First Standing Committee.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) said that the role of parliamentarians in affirming the sexual orientation and gender identity rights in legislation had been proposed as a topic by her delegation in the belief that the IPU was committed to the defence and promotion of human rights, which were universal in scope and respect for which was an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development. The topic addressed the goal of zero discrimination that formed part of the United Nations "Getting to Zero" campaign. Concerted efforts were needed to develop effective and inclusive partnerships, shared responsibility, greater transparency and a focus on results. Laws that created stigma or highlighted groups for discrimination would have a detrimental impact on that goal. She therefore appealed for reconsideration of the New Zealand proposal by way of a vote.

Mr. Z. BENMEDAKHENE (Algeria) said that, in common with those who were opposed to the topic on drug legalization, he endorsed the Canadian proposal. He suggested, however, that the title of the subject item should incorporate a reference to the role of parliamentarians.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, *Secretary of the Committee*, suggested that consideration of the role of other stakeholders would be impeded by a reference to the role of parliamentarians in the title. He also confirmed that a reference to occupation in the title was unnecessary; if the proposal were adopted, the impact of occupation on the use of social media could be addressed in the report prepared on the subject item.

Lord FAULKNER (United Kingdom) said that he joined in endorsing the Canadian proposal, adding that its remit should be wide enough to address the issue of government interference in the free operation of the Internet and the avoidance of censorship with respect to Internet access. He was against the Colombian proposal and would welcome a vote concerning the New Zealand proposal.

Ms. C. CHARLTON (Canada) said that the title of the proposed subject item was limited to social media in the interest of focusing on means of fostering citizen engagement. The possibility of discussions leading on to a broader debate was not ruled out by that fact and the title should therefore remain unchanged.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, in order to address the concerns expressed with respect to exclusion of developing countries from the topic, the title could be amended to read: *The use of the media, in particular the social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*.

Mrs. N. AL-KHARUSIYA (Oman) alternatively suggested use of the word “multimedia” as a blanket term.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), noting that the suggested amendment to the title would not alter the emphasis on social media, appealed for wording that was inclusive of countries where access to social media was virtually non-existent and where parliamentarians therefore communicated with their communities through more traditional media, such as radio.

The PRESIDENT responded by suggesting a different amendment to the title, namely, *The use of the media, including the social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*.

Ms. C. CHARLTON (Canada) said that she concurred with that compromise solution.

The PRESIDENT, following a strong expression of support by Mr. A. ELISSEN (Netherlands) for the New Zealand proposal, invited the Committee to vote by show of hands on the Canadian and New Zealand proposals.

The Canadian proposal was approved by 36 votes to 10.

The PRESIDENT said he therefore took it that the Committee wished to propose for consideration by the Assembly the subject item *The use of the media, including the social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT invited nominations for persons to serve as co-Rapporteurs for the Committee at the 128th Assembly.

Ms. J. CROWDER (Canada) proposed the nomination of Ms. C. Charlton of Canada.

Ms. M. OSMAN GAKNOUN (Sudan) proposed the nomination of Ms. M.T. Kubayi of South Africa.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Committee wished to approve those two nominations.

It was so decided.

Election of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that, in conformity with Rule 7.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, officers of the Committee were to be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of the Assembly. He invited the Secretary of the Committee to present the proposed nominations for the positions to be filled.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, *Secretary of the Committee*, said that all current members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election, with the exception of Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation), substitute Vice-President for the Eurasia Group, which had submitted his candidature for the vacant position of titular Vice-President. If elected, he would occupy the vacant position of First Vice-President for the Eurasia Group. The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean was also due to submit a candidature to replace Ms. C. Chacón (Peru) as substitute Vice-President.

Consequently, the members eligible for re-election were: for the African Group, Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana) as President and Mrs. P. Fouty-Soungou (Congo) as substitute Vice-President; for the Arab Group, Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain) as titular Vice-President and Mr. R. Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq) as substitute Vice-President; for the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. S.S Ahluwalia (India) as titular Vice-President and Mr. R. Fatyana (Pakistan) as substitute Vice-President; for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. J.M. Galán (Colombia) as titular Vice-President; and for the Twelve Plus Group, Mr. E. Frâncu (Romania) as titular Vice-President and Mr. J. Winkler (Germany) as substitute Vice-President.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the re-election of the members mentioned and the election of Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) to the position of titular Vice-President for the Eurasia Group, whereupon he would assume the position of First Vice-President for the Eurasia Group.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said he also took it that the Committee wished to leave vacant the position of substitute Vice-President for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean until such time as the Group submitted a candidature for that position.

It was so decided.

Any other business

The PRESIDENT said that there was no other business to consider.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

**Panel discussion on: *Tackling malnutrition in young children:
The role of parliamentarians***

Sitting of Tuesday, 3 April, 2012
(Morning)

The meeting was opened at 9.10 a.m. by Mrs. Janet Kataaha Museveni (First Lady of Uganda), as Moderator.

The MODERATOR welcomed the audience to Uganda and to the discussion on *Tackling malnutrition in young children: The role of parliamentarians*. Chronic nutritional deficiency was an invisible scourge, with thousands of victims and millions of children under five years suffering every year from malnutrition, particularly in developing countries. Two out of every five children in Africa suffered from malnutrition. All countries should take action and parliamentarians should identify what action they could take to fight the scourge of childhood malnutrition. The current situation was intolerable and the survival of humanity depended upon finding a solution. Looking after the health of mothers was essential because their children's health depended on it. She concluded by urging parliamentarians to play a frontline role and to share their experiences in order to make a better contribution.

She invited Mr. Abdelwahad Radi, President of the IPU, to address the delegates.

Mr. A. RADI, *President of the IPU*, said that it was a great honour to participate in that panel discussion. He paid tribute to the commitment and support that UNICEF had shown to the activities of the IPU. He thanked Mrs. Museveni, who was a member of parliament and Minister for the North-East Region, for gracing the meeting with her presence.

Malnutrition was a scourge that threatened the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. He stated that there was no point in going over the worrying statistics; it was important to act now.

Parliamentarians had to pay special attention to policies that ensured mothers and their children received the required nutrition. Support for community workers to educate mothers was also important. The problem could be addressed with political will.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Radi and gave the floor to the first panellist, Mr. Werner Schultink of UNICEF.

Mr. W. SCHULTINK, *Chief of Nutrition, UNICEF, Panellist*, said that stunting had received too little attention for too long. Inadequate nutrition impaired the health and well-being of both mothers and children. Stunting in children led to diminished immune and brain function. The brain was affected for life. Brain cells did not grow in young children without adequate nutrition from birth. Those who were stunted had a higher risk of disease later in life. The consequences for countries were severe. GDP was reduced by 2 to 3 per cent and stunted people had a diminished economic capacity of between 20 and 25 per cent.

Stunting could be prevented with adequate nutrition for pregnant mothers. Babies had to be breastfed and receive supplements where appropriate. Such intervention was highly cost effective. The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement was a collaboration between governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and businesses working to address malnutrition in over 25 countries. It had defined key policies focusing on the supply of food and the education of mothers. The work required coordination between a number of government ministries to ensure that education was provided, food was fortified, food supply was secure and that there were adequate financial resources.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Schultink and gave the floor to the second panellist, Mr. A. Mascarenhas Monteiro, former President of Cape Verde and Nutrition Advocate for West Africa.

Mr. A. MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, *former President of Cape Verde and Nutrition Advocate for West Africa, Panellist*, said that many children were suffering from malnutrition in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. Over 40 per cent of children in those regions were undernourished. Malnutrition caused a number of diseases and had long-term health implications. Parliamentarians should call for adequate policies on food security and hunger. Countries should adopt strategies to address the issue on a number of fronts, for example, by ending cultural practices that compounded poor nutritional habits. Parliamentarians should work to address international economic systems and issues that contributed to the problem.

In some parts of the world vitamin A supplements were taken by 80 per cent of children and more women than previously were breastfeeding their babies. There were also widely available malnutrition prevention programmes. Ultimately, child malnutrition would only be eradicated through international cooperation between governments that were committed to a common programme. The key elements of a malnutrition prevention programme were the effective targeting of resources, ensuring food security and improvements to water supplies.

The world must act and not ignore the fact that in West Africa every 10 minutes 10 children died of malnutrition. Parliamentarians were well-placed to influence the actions of donor and importer countries.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Mascarenhas Monteiro and gave the floor to an expert, Mr. F. Sardinha from India.

Mr. F. SARDINHA, *Member of the Lok Sabha, India, Panellist*, said that malnutrition was the single largest contributing factor to disease. Not eating enough food, or eating the wrong type of food, would inevitably lead to illness. Human beings required sufficient nutrients, vitamins, minerals and protein to live healthily. A malnourished person would not develop properly, would not be able to work effectively and would become ill more frequently. For women the situation was even more serious. A malnourished mother was not only putting her own health at risk, but that of her unborn child as well. Malnutrition also made it less likely that a woman could produce breast milk suitable for her baby.

There were 925 million undernourished people in the world. Hunger and malnutrition were responsible for the deaths of more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. It was the single highest cause of death.

In the developing world the main priority was to improve food security. Developing countries tended to have mainly agrarian economies where fluctuations in the supply of arable crops had a significant impact on food prices. Because average incomes in developing countries were low, when food prices rose significantly it resulted in many people being unable to buy sufficient food for themselves and their families. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in devising policies to ensure the availability of food at affordable prices. In India infants, small children and elderly people were most susceptible to malnutrition. The government had implemented a number of programmes, which were designed to educate people about the need for good nutrition. Food supplied under those programmes complied with stipulations regarding the minimum number of calories required for a healthy life. Educating people about the importance of nutrition was extremely important in India, a country where 20 million children were born every year.

Parliamentarians should, as a matter of priority, bring pressure to bear on government decision makers to devise suitable programmes to eradicate malnutrition. Parliamentarians also had a key role in raising public awareness of the importance of hygiene and safe drinking water. There could be no freedom in a democracy where millions of people continued to die of malnutrition.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Sardinha and gave the floor to the final panellist, Mr. S. Baker of the Helen Keller Society.

Mr. S. BAKER, *Vice-President and Regional Director for Africa, Helen Keller International, Panellist*, said that civil society had a key role to play in tackling malnutrition in many countries. The overarching purpose of CSOs was to make malnutrition eradication programmes work for those who were most in need. They achieved that by sensitizing decision makers to the importance of providing a coordinated programme to deal with the issue. NGOs and other stakeholders had vast experience in implementing successful programmes. There was a large evidence base which demonstrated the effectiveness or not of programmes. The main lesson to be learnt was that all government agencies must work effectively with NGOs and other representatives of civil society. The ultimate aim was that CSOs would leave a country safe in the knowledge that the programmes they left in place could be run domestically and without outside help.

The evidence of the impact of malnutrition on society was compelling. One third of children died from malnutrition. Malnutrition also affected adults and consequently had a significant effect on economic growth.

He welcomed recent progress in improving nutritional standards. He noted that parliamentarians had the trust of the people they represented and that their voices were easily heard, urging them to use those assets to heighten awareness of malnutrition and its consequences around the world.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Baker and invited delegates to join the debate.

Ms. K. HAYAKAWA (Japan) said that the people most affected by malnutrition were women and children. Malnutrition not only caused suffering but it also had a deleterious effect on economic development and progress. A comprehensive strategy to combat malnutrition was required, involving the reduction of poverty alongside economic growth. But countries receiving support should also take ownership of those initiatives with the aim of promoting self-support. Parliamentarians should work hard through partnerships to support initiatives aimed at tackling the challenges she had laid out.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) thanked the panellists for their presentations and outlined four priorities for tackling malnutrition: increasing household income; improving household access to food; improving food culture; and improving access to health care. Thanks to the effective measures that had been taken, there were no longer any children suffering from malnutrition in Iran. That was the result of mainstreaming Islamic conduct and of the programmes implemented by government ministries. In particular, the Parliament of Iran had financed educational programmes for the parents of malnourished children, health care programmes involving the promotion of food supplements and the provision of financial aid to poor and rural women. He concluded by saying that parliamentarians should take action through international organizations to reduce the large numbers of people suffering from famine around the world.

Mr. Y. ABEBE (Ethiopia) thanked the Government of Uganda for its hospitality. Ethiopia was badly affected by malnutrition, causing high child mortality rates and negatively impacting on the life potential of growing children and working people. The level of malnutrition had declined in recent years but remained unacceptably high. The Ethiopian Government had launched a national malnutrition strategy in February 2008, and there was an action plan to achieve the MDGs, both of which had pushed the issue of malnutrition up the political agenda. In addition, the government had launched a food security programme in 2005, relaunched in 2009,

which had benefited over 7 million people. He concluded by explaining that the Ethiopian Parliament was playing a significant role in those attempts to tackle malnutrition.

Mr. S. DERRADJI (Algeria) thanked the Parliament of Uganda for its warm welcome and hospitality. He explained that children in Algeria had a right to free education until they graduated from university, and to free health care. That was not true of millions of children around the world, and parliamentarians should work hard to improve children's lives.

He noted that over 80 per cent of deaths from malnutrition occurred in developing countries. While he commended the MDGs on poverty reduction, he feared that it may take another 30 years or so to reach the targets worldwide. However, if concerted action were taken now, lives could be saved and the MDGs could be met by 2015. He demanded an end to agricultural subsidies and restrictive intellectual property rules, which put products beyond the reach of the poor, and urged further reductions in the emissions which caused global warming. Lastly, he called for increased investment in a wide range of areas, including water, safe sanitation and women's health.

Ms. P. KUMARI (India) said that a large number of children in India suffered from malnutrition as a result of poverty. Addressing malnutrition contributed to development aims and economic growth. India had a strategy called the Integrated Child Service Scheme that coordinated action on nutrition and wider child health issues. There was a valuable role for parliamentarians to play in supporting that Scheme and ensuring its effectiveness. Members of parliament in India were well-informed about the issue and used parliament to enhance action. The Indian Parliament had established a forum, which focused on nutritional matters.

Ms. J. NURHAYATI (Indonesia) said that malnutrition had a range of causes and required action on a number of fronts, including agricultural reform and changes to the food distribution network if it were to be tackled effectively. Indonesia had introduced a national action plan to guide action across all levels. It promoted breastfeeding and food supplements, which led to improvements in nutrition. Parliamentarians could contribute to efforts to eradicate malnutrition through the adoption of laws on hunger and in providing oversight of government programmes. Parliament also facilitated the coordination of the different stakeholders. Indonesia was strongly committed to the MDGs.

Mr. F. WANDABWA, *Save the Children*, said that climate change and the global economic crisis increased the risk of malnutrition. Focus should be placed on making malnutrition visible and on implementing policies to address it. It was important to engage with small-scale farmers in that process. *Save the Children* recognized that action was required at all levels for it to be successful.

Mrs. M. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) stated that Africa had a number of problems, which compounded the difficulties in addressing malnutrition including: HIV, which led mothers to be unable to breast feed; climate change and the related floods and drought; and violence. The implementation of food programmes was the biggest challenge. Namibia advocated the use of traditional and inexpensive foodstuffs and the education of mothers. She asked what could be done to improve international coordination.

HIV/AIDS had a huge impact on the health of children and mothers, particularly in the developing world. If a mother with HIV had access to antiretrovirals, the risk of transmitting the disease to their baby was relatively low. Breastfeeding was always the preferred option because of the nutritional benefits to babies.

Ms. S.V. KALYAN (South Africa) said that in South Africa there were 43.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. That was a shocking statistic. However, the government had taken a number of

measures designed to improve the life chances of children. The right to life was enshrined in the Constitution. Mothers and children up to the age of six were entitled to free health care. In recognition of the fact that babies in the womb required a healthy mother, the government had ensured that there was widespread access to medical services for pregnant women in all areas of the country.

It was important to recognize that poverty and malnutrition were invariably linked. The government was determined to raise the living standards of all South Africans, to ensure the security of food at affordable prices and to provide a nutritional education programme for children and their mothers across the country.

Mr. S. BAKER, *Panellist*, agreed that the importance of a healthy life started from conception. Research had shown that the first 1,000 days of a child's life were the most important for their future health and life expectancy. A mother's health before, during and after pregnancy were vital both for the mother herself and for her child.

Civil society organizations worked with governments in many parts of Africa on implementing evidence-based programmes to address malnutrition. Delivery science, which demonstrated what worked when applied widely, was key to an effective malnutrition prevention programme. Parliamentarians and decision makers must think imaginatively about how to apply local programmes regionally and nationally.

Mr. E. ZINSOU (Benin) said that it had been a very informative discussion about the problems caused to societies by malnutrition. In Benin, significant numbers of mothers and children under the age of five suffered from malnutrition. The government had taken a number of initiatives to address the problem, which included making vaccinations for malaria more widely available and education programmes about the importance of nutrition. However, deaths from malnutrition in Benin were on the rise. Many initiatives were coordinated badly and consequently did not achieve their goals. The country should have a central agency that coordinated the various programmes in operation. A multidimensional approach to malnutrition was required. Efforts should not be the preserve of only the Ministry of Health. Benin did not have sufficient numbers of specialists in nutrition. More nutrition experts should be trained so that the importance of a balanced diet was promoted widely. It was a fact that the poor ate inexpensive food that did not contain sufficient nutrients. That practice would only change through a more equitable distribution of wealth and better education.

Ms. E. KOWA (Sierra Leone) said that Sierra Leone faced many health challenges. Poor diet had resulted in very high rates of malnutrition, diabetes and anaemia. More than one third of children experienced stunted growth. Sierra Leone was keen to work with other countries and international organizations to address the health problems of its population. She asked whether Mr. Mascarenhas Monteiro had visited Sierra Leone to assess its malnutrition prevention programmes.

Mr. A. MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, *Panellist*, said that he had not yet visited Sierra Leone in his capacity as Nutrition Advocate for West Africa but he would be willing to do so if invited.

Ms. S. MOHAMED (Kenya) said that the Kenyan Government took the issue of malnutrition very seriously. It had implemented a number of programmes aimed at improving citizens' knowledge of nutrition. Those programmes were specifically aimed at mothers.

Parliamentarians had a great responsibility to scrutinize the effectiveness of government programmes over the long term. Education about the importance of nutrition was key to ensuring a healthy population. It was widely recognized in Kenya that the first few years of life often determined a person's later health and life expectancy.

As a minimum, governments should guarantee free access to health care and educate their people in nutrition.

Ms. R. GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ (Cuba) said that malnutrition had been eradicated in Cuba thanks to government action to improve people's diets, including guaranteed provision of commodities essential to health. Indeed, Save the Children had commented that Cuba had one of the best track records on nutrition in Latin America. Parliament exercised oversight of those policies. She concluded by noting that Cuba remained subject to a blockade by the United States, and she felt that she had to speak out against it.

Mrs. M. MALAK (Egypt) expressed her appreciation for the information provided by the panellists. Statistics showed that malnutrition was a particular problem in Africa, and donor countries should provide as much aid as possible to roll out malnutrition prevention programmes, e.g. those that ensured the proper distribution of food. Parliamentarians should work hard to ensure that the MDGs in the field of maternal and child health were met. She welcomed the steps that had been taken to bring down mortality rates among children under five and mothers, and stated that Egypt would do all it could to allocate the necessary resources to improve the situation further, particularly in the least developed areas of the country.

Ms. D. NDOUABNADJI TARAM (Chad) thanked the panellists for their presentations, noting that malnutrition was a fundamental challenge.

She said that humans were destroying the environment by using land unwisely, e.g. to grow biofuels, a scourge with which developing countries had to contend. Some people were even forced to flee rural areas. In Chad, farmland made up 60 per cent of the territory but in many areas there was oil exploitation, the benefits of which people were not seeing. Food productivity had gone down in those areas and the oil wells had caused concern to local farmers. Therefore, pressure should be brought to bear on governments to curb the expansion of the use of land for biofuel crops, and where such crops were grown, people needed to be able to get the food they required.

Mrs. A. GÓMEZ FRANCESCHI (Costa Rica) said that Costa Rica had a national food security policy covering the period 2011 to 2021. The objective was to give the population access to a sufficient quality and quantity of food to ensure good health. Policies in Costa Rica were cross-cutting, involving a large number of government ministries and NGOs. Specific initiatives included encouraging schools and communities to set up their own vegetable and fruit gardens, raising awareness of issues around breastfeeding, and establishing local networks for food security and nutrition. Parliament had also adopted 20 new laws, including general laws on health and vaccinations, and was involved in examining a range of international agreements.

Ms. A. KABORÉ-KOALA (Burkina Faso) stated that malnutrition was endemic in some sub-Saharan African countries, including Burkina Faso. Some pregnant women in rural areas were affected by malnutrition and were already anaemic by the time they went to health centres, resulting in babies being born undernourished. Breast-fed babies tended to be more healthy between birth and six months, but their growth slowed after six months if breast feeding continued. In the West, it was possible to buy baby food, but that was much more difficult in Burkina Faso, so it was hard to facilitate the transition from breast milk to solid food. She welcomed special grains that were vitamin-enriched and were intended to improve the health of children who were already malnourished. It was easy to tell people in the cities about those grains, but not those in rural areas. The distribution of such grains had been decentralized so that local centres could channel and distribute them, but community leaders also needed to be trained in how to use them and be made aware that babies could not move straight from breast milk to solid food. If these programmes could be more generously financed, it would be possible to deal

with the root of the problem of malnutrition, rather than being purely reactive. Good communication was key.

Mr. A. MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, *Panellist*, said that mothers had to be educated about nutrition. Mothers often had adequate food but they often did not use it effectively. Work had been conducted in rural areas to educate mothers on how to provide adequate nutrition from local foodstuffs. He hoped that West Africa would solve the problem within the next few years.

Ms. A. MAKINDA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that knowledge was a powerful tool. Even in areas where there was plenty of food, there was still malnutrition. UNICEF needed to provide educational materials in local languages as many did not speak English.

Mr. W. SCHULTINK, *Panellist*, agreed that translation of information on nutrition into local languages was important. UNICEF would work to translate its information.

Mrs. N. RATCHAKITPRAKARN (Thailand) stressed the need for nutrition for mothers before, during and after birth. Breastfeeding was required for a year.

Ms. P. KUMARI (India) asked what role CSOs should play.

Mr. S. BAKER, *Panellist*, said that civil society played an important role in filling the gap between national aims and local implementation. It was instrumental in feeding back evidence about the degree of success of food programmes.

Ms. G. ZOUEIN (Lebanon) noted that malnutrition in Lebanon was related to the war. The government provided food supplies but malnutrition persisted. Cancers in children and mothers were also of concern. She asked what could be done.

Mr. W. SCHULTINK, *Panellist*, responded that UNICEF might commission a health and nutrition survey of Lebanon.

Ms. A. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) believed that a lack of capacity undermined the implementation of policy. In Sierra Leone education courses had been introduced to train professionals in nutrition so that they could spread their knowledge. Such education was expensive and scholarships were important for their funding.

Mrs. N. OURO BANG'NA (Togo) asked what had been done to combat malnutrition in West Africa and Togo in particular; she also wondered what could be done to change cultural attitudes towards the importance of nutrition.

Mr. A. MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, *Panellist*, said that he had no specific knowledge of any programme in Togo to control malnutrition. However, many countries, including Niger and Senegal, had implemented effective programmes. Common to those programmes was the focus on heightening awareness of the importance of nutrition through a nationwide education programme.

Cultural attitudes towards nutrition were changed most successfully through education programmes; the testing of programmes in pilot studies; and by parliamentarians raising awareness of the issue in parliament and in their constituencies. Programmes undertaken by government in association with NGOs and other organizations were the most successful. Cultural attitudes towards food had changed in countries, including Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Niger and

Senegal. In those countries mothers had been encouraged to use local ingredients so that they could make healthy meals for themselves and their children.

The MODERATOR said that the debate had been compelling and thought-provoking. The contributions of the panellists and from the floor had been articulated with knowledge and passion. As an African mother and parliamentarian, the subject of malnutrition was of great interest. All delegates would leave the discussion much better informed. Malnutrition was not always caused by a scarcity of food but because people ate a poor diet and did not provide their children with healthy food. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in educating their constituents about healthy eating and how to feed their children properly. It was likely that, with economic growth and prosperity and the provision of free education for primary and secondary school-aged children, the problem of malnutrition would diminish.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.

**Panel discussion on
Making the law work for the response to AIDS: Zero new infections,
zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths**

Sitting of Tuesday, 3 April 2012

The meeting was opened at 3 p.m. by Ms. A. Miceli as Moderator.

Ms. S. TLOU, *Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for East and Southern Africa, former Member of Parliament and Minister of Health of Botswana* thanked the IPU for organizing the panel discussion on the role of parliamentarians. She said that at a time of numerous competing priorities, the stigma associated with AIDS risked being forgotten by politicians, and financing for the response to AIDS risked being reduced – even though the epidemic had not been contained. She noted that 25 years before, this wasting disease had hit thousands of persons in the prime of life. And today, AIDS had still not been cured, although infection and mortality rates had receded.

She recalled that in June 1998, the first UNAIDS Report had estimated the number of people living with this illness at more than 9 million, and the number of persons affected annually at more than 5 million. But times had changed. In Uganda, policy decided at the highest level had helped to reduce infection, from 23 per cent to 14 per cent of the women examined. A sex education campaign had been conducted throughout the country to raise public awareness. And treatments were now available for more than 200,000 people. In Botswana, these treatments had cut the number of deaths in half. She said that 6 million people around the world were currently receiving the antiviral treatments, helping to prevent 2.5 million deaths in low and middle income countries since 1985; 350,000 children had been protected from infection.

Beyond the figures, the epidemic had necessitated cultural, political and social change. She recalled how AIDS had revealed inequities in access to health care – between North and South, town and country, rich and poor. AIDS had driven people living with HIV to demand respect for their rights and dignity. There was a clear difference between those in the centre and those at the margins of society: women, children, sexual minorities, sex workers and persons using drugs.

She said that members of parliament needed to engage with the response to AIDS. While some laws had provided protection and access to healthcare, others were discriminatory and posed additional obstacles to the AIDS response, tending to force the epidemic back underground.

She recalled that during the Youth Assembly at the United Nations the previous year the Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed their commitment to human rights and gender equality, in accordance with the 2001 Declaration on AIDS, and had undertaken to promote strategies for the protection of those rights. The task had not been easy: there had been problems with intellectual property, the condition of women and legal situations for certain population groups, and these had resulted in moral and religious reactions. But that was not a reason to give up the effort. It was up to parliamentarians to find pragmatic solutions to remove legal and systemic obstacles.

She said that success lay within reach. UNAIDS had defined preventive measures and promised treatment, which represented another form of prevention, since it reduced the risk of transmission to sexual partners by 90 per cent. Those already infected needed to undergo treatment, for the sake of their health and out of respect for their human rights. It was now known how to end the epidemic: social and legal obstacles had to be addressed for the sake of dignity, gender equality and freedom from violence. The law needed to protect affected persons, combat discrimination, and expand access to healthcare.

Segment 1

Using the law to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination

The MODERATOR asked participants to reflect on why stigma and discrimination persisted 30 years after the start of the AIDS epidemic.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, thought the reason was simple: 30 years earlier, AIDS had been associated with certain sexual practices. Since then, antiretroviral treatments had been introduced and it was time to give attention to other population segments, such as sex workers. What could be done for persons stigmatized and forced to live clandestine lives?

Ms. B. LEE, *Congresswoman, United States of America, Member of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, Co-Chair of the US Congressional Task Force on HIV/AIDS*, considered that, to put an end to the epidemic all of its aspects had to be debated: the problems of stigma, marginalization and homophobia in some cases. That debate was difficult, requiring changes in mentality. In the United States, 34 states had enacted laws criminalizing AIDS transmission. She said she had introduced legislation to abrogate those laws, it being the federal government's responsibility to establish the general legal framework. But the response effort would take time, as long as the struggle for civil rights.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS, Panellist*, believed it was the fear of infection that caused the stigma. When a child living with HIV was treated differently than others for that reason, or when someone was denied access to healthcare, these were clear human rights violations. He said the Kenya Network was concerned with health workers. He observed that many such workers, though often in contact with sick patients on the job, would not want to employ HIV-infected domestic workers in their homes. He said it was fear that was causing children to be deprived of their rights, and women to be sterilized against their will or fired from their jobs once their condition became known. He acknowledged that laws could not prevent such practices but could create a more favourable environment by condemning acts of stigma and discrimination. AIDS had to be taken in hand, just like any other illness. To change such attitudes, members of parliament had to set an example.

Ms. B. LEE, *Panellist*, recalled that the United States had not hosted an international conference on AIDS since the 1990s because of a law preventing persons tested as HIV-positive from entering the country. After a long battle to rescind this law, as contrary to human rights, the country would be hosting its first international conference on AIDS in late July 2012.

In the 34 states having criminalized AIDS transmission, a number of infected individuals had been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, in the absence of any scientific proof of voluntary transmission. Ms. Lee had introduced legislation to abrogate this archaic law.

She stressed the importance of talking about AIDS: lives were at stake, although politically, the battle had yet to be won.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, said she was trying to stand fast in overcoming stigma. In Zimbabwe, sex workers were criminals under the Penal Code, subject to arrest if selling sexual services on the street. She had therefore launched a petition for the abrogation of this provision of the Penal Code and asked sex workers to sign it. She had been seeking them out every night on the streets of Zimbabwe's cities for the past three months. She had had to struggle against the animosity of many Members of Parliament, some of whom considered her mad. She said that many Members were beneficiaries in a way of the sex industry. Some knew that she had

seen them on those same streets and feared she would disclose their names. She said at least a fourth of her country's Parliament had been spotted behaving in such ways.

She said that when sex workers were arrested they were usually unable to afford bail, in which case the police would demand it in kind, confiscating their condoms into the bargain. If followed by unprotected sex with their official partners, this behaviour made them propagators of the epidemic.

She observed that sex workers suffered more generally from many problems: lacking proof of salary they were barred from access to healthcare and could not contribute to retirement pensions.

The MODERATOR invited Mr. Maleche to speak about his work with traditional tribal chiefs.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Panellist*, said that in Kenya's Kisumu County the prevalence of AIDS had increased as a result of cultural practices, which, moreover, were common to all of West Africa. He said that when a woman lost her husband, one of the husband's brothers had to take care of and have sexual relations with her, to perpetuate the family line. But when a woman lost her husband as a result of AIDS, and was herself living with HIV, she would sometimes refuse to marry her brother-in-law, to avoid infecting him. She said that families did not accept such refusals, often driving these widows and their children from their land to live in towns, resorting to dangerous practices in order to survive.

The network in which Mr. Maleche participated had therefore entered into discussions with the traditional tribal chiefs concerned and explained to tribal elders that such behaviour represented human rights violations. Without arguing about culture, they had been shown the consequences of this tradition for the lives of women, as well as for transmission rates. The tribal elders had recognized that this was not at all their aim and agreed to act as mediators between these widows and their families. Seventy such cases had been dealt with in this way over the last two years, with good results in 64 of the cases. The women affected had been able to return to their villages, regain their rights and put their children back in school.

He said this showed that it was possible to work with tribal elders on cultural practices. The Kenyan Parliament had moreover amended the country's Constitution in August 2010 to recognize the role of tribal elders in settling disputes.

The MODERATOR invited questions from the participants.

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) said that people in her country could not be tested for AIDS without their informed consent, which sometimes prevented timely detection of the disease, especially in the case of pregnant women. She suggested making the tests compulsory, as a way to save lives.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, thought that such a measure would be drastic and probably violate people's rights. She agreed that it could, however, be the only way to stem the tide and achieve the aim of zero AIDS cases. Such a measure would only be appropriate, she stressed, as a last resort. For the time being, door-to-door campaigns were being conducted in Kenya to convince people to get tested.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Panellist*, did not agree that the test should be compulsory. He said that people should not be forced to undergo such medical interventions. Their consent was necessary. Would the women members of Parliament in attendance, if pregnant, accept the idea of compulsory testing, without their consent? Of course not. People had rights, and the rule of law had to be respected. Pregnant women, if faced with such compulsory testing, would stop going to clinics, having their babies at home with all of the dangers that entailed.

Mr. T. TESEMA (Ethiopia) questioned whether the international community was responding to the problem with the right instruments. He said that suicide attacks called for energetic action.

He recalled that Ethiopia, like other African countries, was populated by many nomadic herders, who from a health standpoint posed administrative difficulties. Under those conditions, was the "zero new infections" goal realistic? Did participants have any proposal to make in this regard? What could WHO do to help these countries?

The MODERATOR asked participants if they thought it was possible to achieve the "zero" target and how it could be done.

Ms. B. LEE, *Panellist*, said that yes, it was possible. She was convinced of that. She said that civil society should encourage members of parliament to take bold measures to that end. She said she was working on a report of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, an independent agency composed of parliamentarians, judges, former heads of state, etc., citing voluminous testimony and making numerous recommendations on ways to achieve the goals of zero new infections and zero AIDS-related deaths.

She said that in the United States, many people living with HIV had not been diagnosed as such. Their share of the population was greater among African Americans than other groups and particularly high among prisoners. She said this warranted the distribution of condoms in prison, unpopular though the measure might be. She invited all of the participants to read the report as soon as it was published.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, recalled how polio had ravaged the population and caused deformities years earlier. The governments of the day had decided that all children had to be vaccinated and people had come to vaccinate the children. And yet, at the start, the victims of that disease had also been stigmatized.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Panellist*, agreed that the zero target was achievable. As a jurist, however, he stressed the need for the right legal framework to govern access to healthcare and medicine. He said it was up to legislators to make sure that their laws were conducive to such access. They needed to question, for example, whether a law might have the effect of increasing the price of generic medicines.

He said that investment in Africa's social sectors was still too limited. There had been help from generous donors for the response to AIDS, but how long would it last, relative to the goal of establishing effective health systems?

Mr. K.P. SOLANKI (India) was also of the belief that compulsory diagnostic testing was needed to achieve the zero target.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, said that while laws could be adopted, the more immediate need was to inform and educate. She said that members of parliament needed to go out to the field and listen to the people. The first step was consulting, not passing laws. The time had come to get out of the Parliament and meet with the people.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Panellist*, said he could only agree to compulsory testing if zero stigma could be guaranteed. He said that patients had a right to information, to know why their blood was being taken or their sperm analyzed. He added that testing was not everything. Once diagnosed as HIV-positive, would people be taken care of after they lost their jobs? People's rights had to be protected. The right environment had to be created so that people would ask for the tests themselves.

Ms. B. LEE, *Panellist*, expressed serious reservations about compulsory diagnostic testing. She opposed, for instance, drug testing, which always targeted the same population segments. She observed that the experience with voluntary testing had produced good results: a reduction in the prevalence of persons living with HIV and of mother-to-child transmission. Considering as well that the cost of medicine had declined significantly, particularly through the efforts of foundations like Bill Clinton's, she believed the elements were in place to achieve the zero target. What was still missing was the political will to devote the resources needed for an effective response to HIV and AIDS. She said the issue should be a priority in the allocation of budget resources.

Mr. P. MATHEWS (Ireland) agreed that the stigma stemmed largely from fear. On the comparison with polio, he noted that immunization was not possible in the case of AIDS. The difficulty was therefore greater.

He said the risk was high that the financial crisis could lead certain countries to disengage from the response to HIV, for which budgetary resources represented the central issue. He said the 159 member parliaments of the IPU should undertake not to reduce their budgets for this campaign.

Ms. S. TLOU said that the participants had come to engage in dialogue and that the IPU needed to strengthen its efforts to get politicians to work. She said Botswana could provide a model for successful efforts in fighting corruption and that there was no reason why it could not do the same in responding to HIV. The infection rates had fallen from 35 per cent to 4 per cent, so the zero target was attainable.

Ms. B. LEE, *Panellist*, noted the title of the report she had cited earlier: *HIV and the Law – from risk to rights*. She said it contained some excellent recommendations in response to the questions raised.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, recalled the words of Nelson Mandela: "if people must learn to hate they can be taught to love". If people must learn to stigmatize, she reasoned, they could be taught to stop.

Mr. A. MALECHE, *Panellist*, called on the participants to lead the way in saving lives.

Segment 2

Using the law to revolutionize HIV prevention and treatment

Ms. M. CLAYTON, *Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa (Namibia)*, *Panellist*, a national of Namibia, represented the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa, an alliance of 15 NGOs concerned with human rights in Southern Africa. Ms. Clayton was also Co-Chair of the United Nations Independent Reference Group.

Ms. N. DLAMINI, *Panellist*, was living with HIV and participating in a network of women in the same situation. She said she was concerned about the sexual and reproductive rights of women, having been sterilized without her consent.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, was a member of the Belgian Senate Committee on social issues and foreign affairs and of the Parliamentarians Group on the MDGs, and a gynaecologist specialized in public health, working specifically on HIV and AIDS. She

directed an international centre for reproductive health that collaborated with numerous countries, including Kenya and Mozambique. She also participated in a group of independent experts working for the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. E. TUMWESIGYE (Uganda), *Panellist*, had been a Member of Parliament for 11 years. As a scientist, he coordinated a program to combat tuberculosis. He had helped to originate the first parliamentary committee on HIV and AIDS and had been President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Advisory Group from 2006 to 2009. His participation in the IPU began with the Manila Assembly, when the guide *Taking Action against HIV and AIDS* had been published. As a doctor and researcher, he said he was interested in means to make testing universal without being compulsory, through a door-to-door effort and counselling. He was also working to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, noted the importance of the Political Declaration unanimously adopted by the United Nations in June 2011, in New York. She noted that the Declaration set important objectives, such as universal access to medicine by 2015, and for the first time had taken vulnerable populations into account: men who had sexual relations with men, persons who injected drugs and sex workers. She recalled that the Security Council had adopted resolution 1893, reaffirming the importance of the response to HIV. Objectives had been established that would put an end to the epidemic: 15 million persons treated by 2015, zero new children born with HIV, wider access to antiretroviral medicines, a 50 per cent reduction in deaths from tuberculosis, universal access to required medications and increased financing for personnel needs. She said that prevention should be the cornerstone for any action in this area: the objective should be to reduce sexually transmitted infection by half by 2015. Lastly, the Oslo Declaration adopted in February had recommended that transmission of the virus be decriminalized.

Ms. N. DLAMINI, *Panellist*, said that a visit she had made to a clinic one day had changed her life. The doctor who had attended to her HIV for the past six years had been disappointed and angry to learn she was pregnant. "It's not possible", "it's irresponsible", he had said. She had not known how to cope with this difficult emotional situation, and had not reacted when the doctor told her she had failed, that an intervention was required and that he was going to sterilize her. At the time she thought the doctor had done her a favour. But now, two years later, she found herself being beaten and insulted by her husband and abused by her in-laws, because she was no longer able to give birth. She could not seek protection: there were no laws or policies for such situations. When one lived with HIV, others took charge of one's life. She was not supposed to get pregnant and this drama had left a painful wound. She was not invited to parties celebrating the birth of her child. She was still reproached for this episode. She said that persons living with HIV needed to gain better protection for the rights.

Mr. E. TUMWESIGYE, *Panellist*, recalled some statistics reflecting the scope of the epidemic, including 7000 persons, half of them women and young girls, and 1000 children infected per day. The number of deaths had come to 1.8 million per year, equivalent to 4500 airline crashes. In Uganda, according to figures for 2004, the prevalence was 6 per cent and the national average 7 per cent for girls. He deplored the 170 AIDS-related deaths recorded each day, with children accounting for one out of every five. There was clearly a need to amend the legislation on the basis of scientific research, because the measures currently being taken were not reducing infection. He recalled that if treated very early, infection could be reduced considerably. Community involvement was essential. People had to be screened and all eligible persons treated. He said that the potential for AIDS transmission could be reduced and the trend shifted toward zero new infections through a range of preventive measures.

It was therefore urgent to amend the legislation, to topple existing barriers. One bill would provide for testing of pregnant women, to guarantee the child's right to be born, something too often forgotten. This was a matter of ensuring equality between men and women.

He said that those who would prevent access to health care and treatment for persons entitled to it should be severely punished under criminal law.

Ms. M. CLAYTON, *Panellist*, said that the links with human rights should not be overlooked. Human beings had rights as such, irrespective of their religion, race, etc. They all had rights to equality. In southern Africa, for physiological and behavioural reasons, women were more affected by AIDS: they could not persuade their partners to use condoms. Were it otherwise the impact of AIDS would be less than it had been. Obviously, the resident of an affluent neighbourhood in Kampala, with a good salary, good nutrition and access to healthcare, was less a victim than someone living in a shantytown, unemployed, etc. Equality, above all, needed to be ensured. What could the law do about it? If there was an AIDS epidemic, there was also an epidemic of laws, and often strange laws. In Southern Africa, the number of laws criminalizing relations between persons of the same sex, sex workers, intravenous drug use and, in some cases, even the transmission HIV itself, had doubled between 2006 and 2010. In some States people were punished not for transmitting HIV but for exposing third parties to the risk of transmission – for example by spitting at a police officer. He called it unproductive to dwell on every moral problem that might be connected with sexual orientation, drugs or sex work. Members of parliament needed to find effective solutions. If homosexuals, sex workers or persons injecting drugs feared arrest if they went to the hospital, they obviously would not go. He said that laws were needed to prevent discrimination but that most of the laws being drafted were bad. He suggested that the entire issue needed to be reviewed calmly, which would be difficult. Laws had to be adapted to facilitate access to healthcare, as a duty to future generations, even if unpopular.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, responded to Ms. Escudero that it was not necessary to make screening tests compulsory. In certain countries, national health policy provided that pregnant women were to be tested for AIDS, syphilis and toxoplasmosis. They could refuse, but very few did. This had allowed for 99 per cent of pregnant women to be tested without the need for compulsory legislation.

Ms. R. GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ (Cuba) asked that the role played by a highly unjust international order not be ignored in the discussion. While Cuba's entirely public health system was accessible to all, and antiretroviral treatments were available for everyone, the blockade imposed by the United States could not be forgotten. The commitment of parliamentarians or of the United Nations was not sufficient if weighed against the power of the multinational pharmaceutical companies. She said that AIDS was a subject of much discussion in Cuba. Testing was conducted anonymously and Cubans dreamed of achieving zero new cases and zero deaths.

Ms. N. GHOSHAL, *a researcher for the NGO Human Rights Watch, LGBT Programme*, recalled that an epidemic of laws and bills in Southern Africa had been hindrances to the treatment and prevention of AIDS. Numerous African parliaments were seeking to criminalize homosexuality or membership of a LGBT movement. A law in Nigeria imposed extremely severe prison sentences for persons engaged in such activity, and even for others speaking on their behalf, including, potentially, NGOs. A bill introduced in Uganda would impose capital punishment in such cases (although the sponsor had declared a willingness to accept life imprisonment as an alternative). Heavy prison sentences had also been established for parents and family members failing to report homosexual relatives.

What to do? Would parliamentarians be courageous enough to resist these demands? Or should such provisions be challenged in the courts?

Ms. M. CLAYTON, *Panellist*, agreed that the proliferation of such bills in Africa was troubling. Would members of Parliament be able to resist it? Time would tell, but their difficulty was understandable: the issues were often taboo. The keys were education and understanding. Persons who engaged in same-sex relations weren't monsters, but members of society like any others; it was important to accept them. Grass-roots information efforts would help parliamentarians make the legal system more equitable.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, said the IPU should play its role in reflecting on how to support parliamentarians. There were perhaps countries in the region that had dealt with this problem and could help their neighbours.

Mr. P. EBA, *Human Rights and Law Adviser, UNAIDS*, asked participants not to overlook a number of positive trends. He said that spaces were needed for dialogue and exchanges on the problem. In Rwanda, legislation to amend the Penal Code to criminalize homosexual relations had been rejected in December 2009; a Member of Parliament had been quoted as saying that the country of genocide, founded on racial discrimination, must not set another such example by instituting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

He noted that a ban had just been lifted on the entry of persons with AIDS into the United States. Sex work had been decriminalized in Senegal, and other African countries had adopted similar legislative amendments. He stressed the importance of exchanging such experiences. He concluded that change was possible and was happening.

The delegate of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that his country had taken measures to prevent AIDS, since prevention was preferable to treatment, but that care was also being provided to persons already living with the virus, including prison inmates, with assistance as well for their families.

He noted that the country's law on marriage required prospective spouses to certify that they were not infected by a disease.

Mr. TOUATOUA (Uganda), *Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on AIDS*, sought assistance from other parliamentarians in dealing with the problem. Legislation had been drafted on the issue that would criminalize the wilful or knowing transmission of the virus. While the human rights of women had unquestionably to be respected, the case of a woman having been raped but without informing her husband before marriage, raised a question in his mind: could a woman's rights be used as criminal instruments? The problem, he emphasized, was not minor: rape and forced sexual relations within marriage were frequent.

Ms. N. DLAMINI, *Panellist*, observed that members of Parliament often claimed not to be aware of or not to understand the problem. She said they should make the effort to meet persons living with HIV to understand what they were living through, rather than rely on reports in the media. Ms. Dlamini recalled a meeting in Johannesburg with a parliamentarian from Swaziland who was unaware of what was happening next door to her, even though she was a member of the Parliamentary Committee on AIDS.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, said that the pretext for prosecuting persons under laws on AIDS, or under penal legislation, was often that transmission of the disease had supposedly been deliberate. She noted that in most cases, however, no such intent was clear. She urged prudence, since such provisions were highly prejudicial toward people living with HIV. They spread confusion about an individual's rights before the law and discouraged infected persons from consulting with health professionals. The effect was particularly detrimental for women: criminalizing transmission would not protect them from rape or forced sexual relations.

That was what had to be criminalized. When pregnant women undergoing screening in Kenya had been asked to encourage their partners to do the same, they had often been victims of violence. That was certainly not a good way to impose screening.

Mr. E. TUMWESIGYE (Uganda), *Panellist*, explained that it was very difficult to prove that someone had transmitted the virus without conducting extremely costly tests. The money was better used for other purposes. In addition, there was a lag before the viral charge exploded. A partner could be affected without knowing it at the time of sexual relations.

The problem of rape was a little different. For the Parliament of Uganda, the presence of a risk of HIV transmission constituted an aggravating circumstance in rape cases.

Ms. L. MUGONGO (United Republic of Tanzania), who chaired a standing committee on HIV and AIDS in her country, remarked that when campaigning for office, members of parliament went to see everyone, without discrimination, because they were seeking votes. Once elected, however, some members became more discriminatory toward HIV-positive persons or sex workers – rather than representing these persons like any others, as they should.

Consideration also needed to be given to keeping parliamentarians better informed on certain subjects – particularly since committee members rotated regularly. Members would get trained in one committee but then would move on. In Tanzania there was a standing committee on HIV and AIDS; a network of parliamentarians had also been set up a decade earlier to work on the subject. When they returned to their respective constituencies, these members would go to meet with persons living with HIV or AIDS as well as at-risk groups (persons injecting drugs and prison inmates). That was another challenge: closing the gap between parliaments and citizens.

She called on the industrialized countries to help developing countries respond to AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. She called for a global parliamentary coalition to that end.

Ms. D.Z. RANHTO (South Africa) said that a vast HIV screening campaign had been launched in her country in June 2010 with the aim of testing 1 million persons. While only 750,000 had been tested, that fact was in itself considerable. The Ministry of Health had asked Members of Parliament to support this campaign by setting an example and being the first to undergo screening.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, proposed that all persons present get tested. She was prepared to set an example herself.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, suggested that condoms be distributed, as Bibles sometimes were, in hotel rooms.

Ms. M. CLAYTON, *Panellist*, observed that many people considered defenders of human rights as evil incarnate. The network she represented was always looking for new ways to work with members of parliament. She said participants should not hesitate to contact her and that she and the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa stood ready to assist them.

Mr. E. TUMWESIGYE (Uganda), *Panellist*, said that a screening tent could certainly be set up in front of the Serena Hotel. He also certainly agreed with the idea of members of parliament setting an example. However, the most important thing for parliamentarians to do was to mobilize resources for the response to AIDS. He pointed out that when people were offered screening tests door-to-door the rate of acceptance was 95 per cent. Testing, however, was not everything. More refined analyses were necessary – to evaluate the viral charge, for example.

Mr. K.P. SOLANKI (India) asked what could be done to better protect doctors, surgeons and all health workers, whose profession placed them at particular risk of infection.

Mr. P. EBA (UNAIDS) stressed the importance, in responding to this epidemic, of basing all decisions on scientific and factual data. Members of parliament needed to elicit information from experts knowledgeable about the problem. Legislation needed to be founded on science, not morality.

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) thought that the main difficulty lay in the cost of the treatments and medicines. She asked what was being done to reduce the cost of therapy.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (Belgium), *Panellist*, responding to the delegate of India, said that the risk of infection for surgeons was only four per thousand. It was therefore not necessary to legislate; health professionals simply needed to know how to protect themselves, and protocols had to be developed for testing and treatment in the case of accidents with syringes, etc.

Mr. A. BUNGUDU (Uganda) asked what the Inter-Parliamentary Union would do after the meeting. He hoped the results would go beyond applause and thank you speeches and lead to concrete action. Work had to be done constructively and non-aggressively with the countries most affected – Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and others – screening, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, medicines, treatments.

Ms. T. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe), *Panellist*, suggested the IPU distribute condoms at future meetings.

Ms. L. MUGONGO (Republic of Tanzania) said the IPU should make HIV and AIDS a permanent item on its agenda and always arrange for panel discussions on the subject. She stressed the urgency in any case of a follow-up conference to assess the results of actions taken after the Manila Conference.

Ms. A. GÓMEZ FRANCESCHI (Costa Rica) said that the emphasis should be placed on prevention – in schools, in colleges and elsewhere. She stressed the importance of education and training first and foremost. She said these should be primary concerns for members of parliament. Laws were also needed to protect HIV-positive persons and persons with AIDS. She said the issue concerned the entire planet and that the parliamentarians of all countries needed to work on a concerted basis, hand-in-hand.

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) returned to the question of the cost of medications, referring to laws on patents and intellectual property.

Mr. A. BUNGUDU (Uganda) cited the case of a Ugandan enterprise producing anti-HIV and malaria medications. These local enterprises needed to receive more assistance. The cost of medications would otherwise continue to rise.

Mr. S. ROBINSON, with the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria*, a major donor, also considered it critical to reduce the cost of medications and facilitate access to generics. He called on parliamentarians to make this a priority, in accordance with the Declaration of São Paulo.

The SECRETARY GENERAL presented regrets on behalf of Ms. Rebecca Kadaga, who was participating in bilateral meetings and could not attend. She certainly would have thanked the participants for this discussion. He also added his personal thanks to the panellists for the two discussions, as well as all of the participants for their interventions. The exchanges had been

truthful and, as someone had put it aptly during the meeting, the excellent progress to date should not be discontinued. Effective follow-up was needed, and the IPU intended to provide it.

More generally, the IPU was making progress in many important areas but without expansive publicity. When it fought for the release of parliamentarians from prison, for example, or came to the assistance of a wounded member of parliament, or one whose rights had been trammelled, it acted with strict regard for confidentiality, at least in the initial phases of such cases.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union also organized debates and meetings, fostered contacts among functionaries and officials and examined existing or possible legislation. For some countries, its work also helped to establish an effective legislative framework for assisting HIV-positive persons.

The IPU planned to continue working in this way, without indulging in grand but vain public declarations. Its role was to offer good and concrete examples. There had been a recommendation to organize another world meeting to assess the results of the 2006 meeting. Perhaps, if the Advisory Group considered it necessary. Distribute condoms at future meetings? Why not? That would be a first! The real benefit of these meetings, however, was to raise awareness among participants about issues of importance: the cost of medications, for example. The panel discussion would be the subject of a report that the Advisory Group would address to the Committee. He explained that the Inter-Parliamentary Union had two functions: first, as a forum where parliamentarians could debate, negotiate, understand and support one another; and second, as a provider of assistance and support to parliaments, helping them to address the questions before them. Such in-depth work would continue, with respect to HIV and AIDS in particular. To conclude, the Secretary General thanked the participants and congratulated UNAIDS on its work.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

Report of the panel discussion on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

1.0 Preamble

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) jointly hosted the panel discussion during the 126th IPU Assembly.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share views and experiences on the linkages among disasters, development and risk reduction, and to learn about the Model Act for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief, as well as the global campaign on resilient cities. The meeting was attended by 74 members of parliament representing 23 delegations.

The presentations and the interactive session that followed were rich and diverse, reflecting on relevant concepts as well as experiences and good practices in Africa, Asia and Central America.

According to UNISDR estimates, over the past 12 years, the economic and human cost of disasters had stood at US\$ 1.3 trillion in damage, 2.7 billion displaced persons and 1.1 million deaths. The 2011 Global Assessment Report clearly established that the economic loss risk continued to increase across all regions and seriously threatened low-income countries.

Climate change, rapid urbanization and population pressures, in addition to unsustainable development practices of the past, increased vulnerabilities and heightened disaster risks. The Report clearly found that losses on account of weather-related disasters in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries were now higher than the rate of wealth creation. Clearly, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning and programmes was key to achieving sustainable development. Hence, disaster risk resilience, as one of the pillars of sustainable development, was imperative to protect past investments and socioeconomic gains, as well as to facilitate accelerated growth and development in the future.

Parliamentarians had an important role to play in promoting and championing disaster risk reduction and ensuring sustainable development, peace and security. Similarly, governments needed to account for historical losses incurred on account of disasters, and subsequently undertake cost-benefit analyses on investing in risk resilience. Given that resources were finite unlike needs and demands, government spending and investment must be prudential and result in optimal impact and sustainable benefits.

A culture of prevention had to be promoted at all levels. There was a need to be proactive and focus on preparedness and resilience before hazards emerged, rather than focus on a reactive response with relief and rehabilitation after hazards had turned into disasters. That became all the more critical given that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was forecasting more extreme events with increasing frequency.

2.0 Key messages delivered by the panellists

The panellists brought to fore the documented rise in the number and intensity of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, cyclones and droughts. Disasters had led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and further heightened the vulnerability of communities.

In some cases, flawed development in the past had been termed a vicious cycle, increasing exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards, contributing to increased occurrence of disasters, and to growing losses that could wipe out socioeconomic gains in a matter of seconds or hours. In addition, some of the funds available for socioeconomic development had to subsequently be spent on disaster response. That had a lot to do with poor planning, inability to translate policies into national action plans and a lack of recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction. Mainstreaming risk assessment and risk management into all socioeconomic planning and programmes would help preserve socioeconomic gains.

In Bangladesh, US\$ 5.9 billion, or 3 per cent of the country's GDP, had been lost over a nine-year period (1991-2000) due to disasters, compounded by the human cost of half a million lives. Recently, however, the introduction of early warning systems and the building of cyclone shelters under the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) had saved the vast majority of lives during disasters, reducing deaths and displacement by an astounding 99 per cent. The focus was now on livelihoods to ensure that lives saved enjoyed a minimum quality.

Japan had borne the brunt of many disasters since the 1960s, notably the 1995 earthquake in Kobe and the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Japan had been improving its legislation and policies and strengthening its risk reduction and disaster response systems after each disaster, based on lessons learned. The country's considerable efforts and investment in disaster response and risk reduction were key to limiting disaster damage. Raising awareness of disaster risk reduction was of particular importance, as was putting disaster prevention knowledge into action.

In East Africa, a reported 20 million people had suffered the harsh consequences of drought in 2009. Two years later, another 10 million were affected by the worst drought in East Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa region in over six decades. Disasters were not acts of God but rather issues central to development planning and the priorities of governments, parliaments and related stakeholders.

In Panama, the continued absence of growth control measures made the country vulnerable to natural disasters. To reduce its vulnerability to disaster, the country had made strides in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. Panama had updated institutional guidelines, standards and policies, with the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in development plans, and with the development of good risk-reduction and sustainable use of natural resources practices in private companies and public institutions alike.

Parliamentarians could enhance their knowledge of disaster risk-reduction issues. There was a specific need to reconnect intellectual thinking with policymaking by enhancing relations between scientists and politicians. A case in point was the drought in East Africa, which had been predicted by scientists but met with little response from parliamentarians and other stakeholders until it had actually happened.

Legal preparedness was deemed vital during times of disasters for effective relief response, including removing regulatory barriers and balancing between legal issues and the reality on the ground at entry points (borders and ports). With such challenges, it was important to explore together a possible general treaty on disasters.

3.0 Plenary discussions

Parliamentarians agreed that education and sensitization were key to building a culture of prevention, and that building the capacity of parliaments was also important. The need to arrest

and reverse the trend between the rates of marginal wealth creation and the rate of losses on account of disasters was emphasized.

Parliamentarians underscored the need to share information and best practices in order to develop legislation. The Philippines legislation on disaster risk reduction was widely considered a “progressive act” and a milestone that should encourage the uptake of legislation globally. The East African Legislative Assembly was expected to pass a similar law before the end of the year.

Parliament was given a mandate of law-making, oversight and representation. It was important for legislators to reverse the growing trend towards heightened disaster risks and greater disaster impacts by fulfilling their roles and responsibilities given by the people they represented.

4.0 Recommendations and way forward

Parliaments and regional assemblies facilitated linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through relevant legislation and policy convergence in regional and national action plans. Relevant legislation should be a priority on parliamentary agendas. The *Philippines Act* and the *Model Act on International Disaster Relief Law* were good references.

Members of parliament expressed their appreciation for the engagement of the IPU on the subject and requested the Organization to prioritize disaster risk reduction on its agenda and in context of its growing and evolving strategic relationship with the United Nations.

The five points below illustrate the way forward for parliamentarians in playing their role of promoting risk reduction and resilience building towards sustainable development at all levels:

1. Actively participate in the consultation process in the run-up to the *UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)*, the *forthcoming Post-2015 Development Framework and Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction*;
2. Urge governments to take coherent approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction by using the *Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)* as a reference;
3. Champion efforts to scale up the use of risk-reduction tools as a core policy element for climate change adaptation, the MDGs, and sustainable development;
4. Underscore disaster risk reduction as a central issue in all development sector policies and programmes;
5. Support the World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Making Cities Resilient by learning more about disaster risk reduction, investing wisely by integrating it into development planning, and by building more safely through participatory urban development planning and critical infrastructure.

List of Panellists

1. Moderator: Mr. Alex Byarugaba, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Disaster Risk Reduction Forum of Uganda
2. Mr. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly
3. Mr. Saber Chowdhury, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh and President of the IPU First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

4. Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and former Minister of State for Disaster Management
5. Mr. Rony Arauz, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Panama
6. Ms. Feng Min Kan, Special Adviser to the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
7. Ms. Sanne Boswijk, Disaster Law Delegate for Africa, International Federation of the Red Cross
8. Rapporteur: Mr. Bobi Odiko, Senior Public Relations Officer, East African Legislative Assembly

Workshop on *Parliamentary oversight of government external loans and related processes*

Summary of main points

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

The workshop was held as a side-event of the 126th IPU Assembly and attracted 70 participants. It provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss questions relating to the oversight of World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and related processes.

The discussion revolved around the presentation of a first ever **global survey** conducted by the IPU, the World Bank and the IMF to assess the extent to which parliaments possessed the legal authority to ratify loans as well as effective practices to oversee loan approval. The survey found that the involvement of parliaments in loan approvals was generally weak but involvement could be significantly strengthened through a legal framework.

Through a number of simultaneous **roundtables**, the parliamentarians discussed some of the questions raised by the survey. The salient points the roundtables are summarized as follows:

- Parliamentary involvement in loan approval is necessary to ensure that loans address the problems specific to each country and that the investment targets an appropriate objective.
- Legal frameworks that give parliaments the legal authority to ratify loans clearly strengthen parliaments' oversight role. Where that legal authority is lacking, it should be instituted, if possible with a mandate expressly set forth in the Constitution.
- Parliaments should be involved in discussions about the purpose of specific loans and any conditions that might apply before official negotiations start. Formal consultations support institutional memory and are thus preferable to informal modalities. However, what matters most in the end is that the interaction with parliament is transparent, free of government interference, and based on all available information. World Bank and IMF officials should be available to answer questions about the objectives and modalities of loans under negotiation.
- While there is a general consensus that the executive should negotiate the loans, parliamentary oversight is weakened because it lacks the right to request amendments. At a minimum, all loans need to be reflected in annual budgets.
- Parliaments need to be given sufficient time to adequately examine loan agreements. One-by-one review is generally preferable to allow for more in-depth examination of conditions and objectives. However, it is also important for parliaments to be given a comprehensive list of all loans (usually attached to the budget) so that it can better identify overall trends, the number of providers, and the total liability incurred by the country.
- Loan review by all concerned committees (depending on the area in which the loan would be used) should be common practice. If time constraints make this impossible, a main committee (usually Finance) should lead the review but in a special session in which the representatives of the other committees are invited to participate.

- Parliaments should play a greater role in monitoring actual implementation of loans and in evaluating the impact of loan-supported projects. Parliaments' capacity to evaluate loans at both the negotiation and implementation stages needs to be strengthened through adequate staff and access to external experts.
- Loan approval by parliament should not be a question of simply rubber stamping the will of the government, but should be based on bipartisan criteria and objective evaluation of the merit of each loan. Parliaments may need to consider setting higher voting requirements for the ratification of loans than for ordinary legislation.

The final segment of the workshop, which took the form of the Doha Debates of the Qatar Foundation, addressed the question of whether governments had sufficient leverage vis-à-vis international financial institutions in the negotiation of loans and related processes. Two participants - Senator Sonia Escudero of Argentina and Mr. Tõnis Kõiv of Estonia - presented their opposing views.

According to Senator Escudero, World Bank and IMF conditionalities remained too severe and failed to take account of country specificities, interfering with governments' right to set their own laws. She argued that developing countries were generally in a weak negotiating position vis-à-vis institutions that were driven by the interests of their more affluent shareholders, and the World Bank's role in settling disputes between investors and host country governments represented an abuse of sovereign authority. Mr. Kõiv, however, felt that the international financial institutions were often and too easily used as scapegoats for governments' poor economic management. In his view, governments had it within their power to put their house in order and to negotiate external support (when absolutely required) on fair terms. Those financial institutions were very good at what they did and the advice they gave to governments usually came with good intentions. In a final vote by show of hands, the overwhelming majority of workshop participants agreed with the arguments presented by Senator Escudero.

SITTING
OF THURSDAY 5 APRIL
AFTERNOON

The last meeting of the 126th Assembly was called to order at 4.15 p.m. with Ms. Rebecca Kadaga, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT informed the Assembly that the Council had received the reports of two panel discussions: one on malnutrition in children and another on the law and the response to AIDS. She called Mr. S.H. Chowdhury to report on the panel discussion held on 3 April on climate change, disaster-risk reduction and sustainable development.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the panel discussion had been jointly organized by the IPU and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and had brought together 74 MPs representing 23 delegations. It had considered the relationship between climate change, disaster-risk reduction and sustainable development. He informed the Assembly that the cost of disasters over the past 12 years had been US\$ 1.3 trillion, and that 2.7 billion people had been affected and 1.1 million killed. He spoke of the cost-benefit ratio, which meant that one dollar invested today probably saved five dollars of expense later on. Explaining that the panel had heard about best practices from Bangladesh, East Africa, Japan and Panama, he welcomed the fact that governments were trying to be more proactive and to exercise effective risk management, rather than being merely reactive. That was a genuinely cross-cutting issue, which was relevant to all of the IPU's three Standing Committees. He concluded by expressing the hope that disaster-risk reduction and sustainable development were areas in which the IPU could work together with the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Chowdhury for his report and said that it was a call for parliamentarians to take action.

She said that, during the Assembly, three visits to nutrition health centres had taken place in cooperation with UNICEF. She thanked UNICEF for its ongoing support. She then asked the rapporteur of one of the field visits, Ms. M. André (France), to give a short overview of the visits.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ (France) told the Assembly that she and a number of other delegates had paid a visit to a nearby hospital. She expressed her thanks to the Director of the hospital for hosting them and said that there had been a useful exchange of views. She praised the quality of the hospital buildings and the paediatricians and other staff.

A film about the visit was shown.

The PRESIDENT said that the film had made a very strong call for action.

Delegates had before them a Presidential Statement about the ongoing crisis in Mali. They were urged to consider the Statement, which expressed the IPU's concern at the military coup d'état that had taken place in Mali on 27 March 2012 and called for support for negotiations taking place between the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and of the African Union and the military junta in Mali.

The Presidential Statement was unanimously adopted.

Item 8 of the agenda**Emergency item: Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts**

Mr. E. EL-ERIAN (Egypt) said that the Parliament of Uganda had been an excellent host of the 126th Assembly and congratulated the IPU Secretary General and his staff for its success. The drafting committee had comprised delegates from Canada, France, India, United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom) had chaired its proceedings. After much discussion, the draft resolution had been agreed and it currently adequately reflected the concerns of the international community about the ongoing events in Syria. The resolution called for respect for human rights and international law while recognizing the principle of sovereignty. All parliamentarians had joined together to call for the cessation of the conflict in Syria. They had agreed that such a cessation should be achieved without foreign intervention. The resolution also called for the establishment of an IPU fact-finding mission to be dispatched to Syria for face-to-face discussions with both sides.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) said that his delegation broadly supported the draft resolution but had reservations concerning the call for the continuation of diplomatic and economic sanctions on Syria. Sanctions would harm ordinary Syrians and should not be supported.

Mr. S. HADDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that natural justice required that the accused was present when charged with an offence. The resolution was completely one-sided and ignored the fact that it was terrorist groups that had initiated the violence in Syria. The resolution was critical of the Syrian Government but ignored the fact that the Government was acting to defend its people. It would have been more logical for a resolution to have followed an IPU fact-finding mission to Syria. The IPU would be welcome to send a delegation to Syria any time. Any sanctions proposed would greatly harm the people of Syria and a peaceful resolution of the situation could only be achieved through dialogue. It would not result from threats made by foreign governments.

Mr. E. TUMA (Chile) said that no effort should be spared to achieve a diplomatic solution to the situation in Syria. Although the resolution touched on some very important issues, the conflict could only be resolved by the Syrian people and foreign intervention should not be countenanced. However, the resolution, as drafted, called for diplomatic and economic sanctions against Syria, to which his delegation was opposed.

Mr. R.D. VIVAS (Venezuela) said that the resolution did not fully reflect suffering endured by the people of Syria. Venezuela could not support an economic blockade against Syria as that would further exacerbate their suffering.

Mr. A. ABBASI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the resolution was neither balanced nor fair. The call for economic sanctions against Syria was unacceptable and it would harm the ordinary citizens of the country.

Ms. NGUYEN THI KIM NGAN (Viet Nam) said that she agreed with the spirit of the resolution but could not support economic sanctions.

Mr. R. PEZ FERRO (Cuba) said that the resolution was not fair and had singled out the Syrian Government for criticism without applying the same judgement to the terrorists in Syria. A peaceful resolution to the conflict should be pursued. Cuba had experienced 50 years of economic sanctions and had a first-hand knowledge of their adverse effects on people, particularly children.

Mr. K.H. KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his country could not support the resolution. It was for the people of Syria to resolve its problems without interference by the international community. The call for the imposition of sanctions was not fair to the ordinary people of that country.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus and the reservations expressed were noted.

Item 4 of the agenda

Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa *(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)*

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa) said that he was honoured to present the resolution as rapporteur of the drafting committee. The drafting committee had comprised representatives from Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, South Africa and Uganda. The committee had considered 94 proposed amendments during its consideration of the resolution and had still managed to keep it relatively short and simple.

The resolution was comprehensive and action-oriented. Among other things, it called on the IPU to stand ready to assist countries that required help in improving good governance, in particular by designing and implementing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for the newly-elected parliaments in the Middle East and North Africa. The Assembly was encouraged to adopt the resolution.

Mrs. G. REQUENA (Venezuela) said that, although the drafting committee had made a laudable effort, Venezuela opposed the resolution because it allowed the intervention of foreign countries in domestic issues. Imperialistic interference in any country's affairs was to be deplored. The principle of self-determination of all peoples should be upheld at all times.

The PRESIDENT thanked the delegate from Venezuela for her comments and noted the reservation, pointing out that the resolution had nonetheless been adopted by consensus.

Item 5 of the agenda

Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas *(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)*

Ms. S. ZUBIN IRANI (India), rapporteur for the drafting committee, presented the draft resolution of the Second Standing Committee. She thanked the two co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee, Lord Judd (United Kingdom) and Mr. O. Benabdallah (Morocco), for their hard work. A total of 46 speakers had taken the floor during the Committee's session on Monday. A drafting committee had subsequently been established, with representatives from 12 countries, which had been chaired by Mr. D. Adams (Australia). The drafting committee had considered

93 amendments and done its best to accommodate as many of them as possible. There had been no need to move to a vote. The Standing Committee had adopted the resolution without any further changes.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda

Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

Ms. P. TURIAHIKAYO (Uganda) said that she was honoured to present the draft resolution of the Third Standing Committee. She thanked those who had worked over the past year on the resolution. The drafting committee had been chaired by the delegate from the United Kingdom and comprised delegates from a number of countries. The proposed amendments had been dealt with by consensus and there had been no need to move to a vote. She explained that the committee had avoided the contentious issue of abortion, as it had been guided by the relevant International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Guideline, which stated that abortion was a matter which should be dealt with at the national level. Therefore, the resolution did not prescribe how national parliaments should proceed on that matter. The draft resolution called for parliamentary action in a number of areas, including the provision of health care professionals, health care financing and access to information. It also called on the IPU to take specific action to ensure implementation of the resolution. The Third Standing Committee had adopted the resolution by acclamation, with no reservations. The draft resolution provided parliaments with an opportunity to transform the lives of women and children worldwide, and she urged the Assembly to adopt it.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Ms. J. KATAAHA MUSEVENI (Uganda) said that some parts of the resolution on Syria were premature and should not have been included until the United Nations had completed its mission in that country. Uganda, therefore, had reservations about the resolution.

The PRESIDENT noted the reservations expressed by the delegation of Uganda.

Item 7 of the agenda

Approval of the subject items for the 128th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that the three Standing Committees had met and endorsed the items and Rapporteurs for the 128th Assembly, to be held in Quito, Ecuador. She noted that the Twelve Plus Group was engaged in discussions about its choice of co-Rapporteur of the First Standing Committee and would convey its decision before the next Assembly, to be held in Quebec City.

The proposed subject items for the 128th Assembly Agenda were approved, together with a list of Rapporteurs.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly had concluded its formal business.

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France), on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, thanked the Speaker and members of the Parliament of Uganda and their team for their excellent hospitality. He welcomed the emergency item on Syria and the resolutions of the Standing Committees, together with the values they represented. He emphasized the importance of protecting individual rights for all, including lifestyle choices such as sexual orientation. He also thanked the IPU Secretariat, and suggested that the IPU should more closely mirror the structure and functioning of its Member Parliaments. With that in mind, he welcomed the decision to have a half-day discussion in the future on the functioning of the IPU. The IPU was the parliament of parliaments, and should therefore work like a parliament.

Mr. A. ENSOUR (Jordan), on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked the President, Government, Parliament and people of Uganda for their warm welcome and hospitality. He believed that the Assembly had looked at issues of great significance to humanity. The resolutions made clear that parliaments played an increasingly important role worldwide, which meant that the IPU was becoming one of the foremost international. As democracies laid down roots and became stronger, their parliaments become stronger; and as parliaments became stronger, they reinforced the democracies of which they were part. He thanked the President of the IPU, the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the IPU, together with the staff of the IPU Secretariat, the translators, the administrators and the staff of the Parliament of Uganda. His thanks also went to the Secretariat of the Arab Group.

Mr. J.M. CORZO ROMÁN (Colombia), on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked all those who had made the Assembly such a success. He stressed the responsibility of parliamentarians to strengthen democracy and to make sure that citizens could hold them to account. He welcomed the fact that the next two Assemblies, in Quebec and Quito respectively, would be hosted in the Americas. The 126th Assembly had been an enriching experience with important ideas being raised and discussed. He concluded by praising the committees and their supporting staff for their hard work.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) on behalf of the African Group, expressed his gratitude to the Parliament, Government and people of Uganda for their friendship and warm hospitality. Uganda was truly the pearl of Africa. He praised the vibrancy of song and dance at the opening ceremony and the cultural evening, and thanked all those responsible for such an enjoyable week. As an African, he was very proud of Uganda for hosting such a successful and well-organized Assembly; it had been only the 11th time that an African country had hosted an IPU Assembly, and Uganda was the first East African country to do so. He congratulated Uganda on the 50th anniversary of its independence.

In such a time of financial and economic crisis, with so many challenges to peace and democracy, he looked to parliamentarians to provide solutions and serve as the voice of the voiceless. He urged delegates not to fail their people.

He had valued his visit, as part of a delegation, to the Pan-African Freedom Square, where a wreath had been laid in memory of those African heroes who had died in the fight for freedom and justice.

Mr. H. FALLAHAT PISHEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, reported that the Group had held very useful sessions recently. Not only had the Group been able to reflect upon its past work but it had also been able to plan future work and consider the implications of the draft resolutions that the Assembly had just considered. It had

also considered the emergency item and was pleased that its views on this topic had been taken into account. Vacancies among the Group's office-holders had also been filled. He looked forward to the next Assembly and was confident that equally good progress would be made there. The Group's priority for that session would be consideration of freedom of speech. Unwarranted foreign interference was also an important topic, which would shortly be considered at a meeting in his country. He expressed his thanks to the Ugandan hosts for an excellent Assembly.

The PRESIDENT thanked the delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran. She said that Uganda had first considered hosting an IPU assembly in 2006. Planning had started that long ago and she was delighted that the long hours of planning and preparations had paid off and had been recognized by those attending. The 126th IPU Assembly was the largest international forum that Uganda had ever hosted and she urged the delegates to return soon.

The PRESIDENT OF THE IPU expressed his sincere thanks for the warm hospitality that had been extended to the IPU by the Ugandan hosts. He spoke of the excellent organization, exceptional facilities and enjoyable cultural activities that had made the Assembly both a useful and pleasant experience. No effort had been spared by the President of Uganda, the Parliament, the Government or the people of Uganda to make delegates feel at home and comfortable. He concluded by congratulating Uganda on 50 years of independence.

The PRESIDENT noted that the IPU now had three new Members. She extended her thanks to the IPU Secretariat, interpreters and other officials who had worked to make the Assembly a success.

The Assembly was closed at 5.40 pm.

**PROMOTING AND PRACTISING GOOD GOVERNANCE AS A MEANS OF
ADVANCING PEACE AND SECURITY: DRAWING LESSONS FROM RECENT
EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

***Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 126th IPU Assembly
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)***

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering that there is compelling evidence to support the positive correlation between good governance and the level of peace and security in society and the world,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are the indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and *reiterating* our determination to foster strict respect for them (paragraph 2, 2005 World Summit Outcome, A/RES/60/1),

Supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence; refrain in international relations from threatening or using force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations; settle disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law; respect the right to self-determination of peoples remaining under colonial domination and foreign occupation; uphold non-interference in the internal affairs of States; ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; guarantee respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; seek international cooperation when solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and meet in good faith the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter (paragraph 5, 2005 World Summit Outcome, A/RES/60/1),

Recognizing that good governance is the manner of governing that aims to achieve sustainable economic, social and institutional development, while promoting a healthy balance between the State, civil society and the market economy, and that there is no way of exercising it other than by serving the interests of the people,

Mindful that the role of public authorities in creating an environment for entrepreneurs to function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the nature of the relationship between governments and citizens is pivotal in promoting and practising good governance at the national and international levels,

Noting that good governance leads to efficient and accountable institutions, i.e. political, judicial, administrative, economic and corporate rules that promote development and the rule of law, protect human rights and ensure that people are free to participate and be heard in decisions that affect their lives,

Also noting that the catalysts for the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa were several and included the concentration of wealth in the hands of autocrats in power for decades, a lack of transparency in the redistribution of that wealth, corruption and, in particular, young people's refusal to accept the status quo, while spiralling food prices and famine were also determining factors,

* The delegation of Venezuela expressed its opposition to the resolution because of the approach it took on good governance.

Acknowledging that the disconnect between the demands of civil society and the response of governments, as well as a lack of government reform, might well have contributed to the protests,

Expressing its sorrow for the victims of the political processes in the Middle East and North Africa, and its solidarity with the families of those who died in their quest for freedom and justice,

Noting the undeniably positive influence of education and exposure to issues of good governance;

Recalling the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which, inter alia, provide that every citizen, regardless of gender, religion or race, has a right to take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives, and that the will of the people should be expressed through free and fair elections based on universal and equal suffrage and secret ballots, in the full exercise of the sovereignty of the people, so as to constitute the basis for the legitimate and credible authority of government,

Also recalling the resolution on *Providing a sound legislative framework aimed at preventing electoral violence, improving election monitoring and ensuring the smooth transition of power*, adopted by the 124th IPU Assembly (Panama City, 2011), which calls upon parliaments, where necessary, "to undertake constitutional and legislative reform, building on international obligations and commitments and taking into account local realities, so as to provide a sound legal framework for free and fair elections that includes the adoption of electoral systems that provide for representative and inclusive outcomes, and for the smooth transfer of power",

Further recalling the above-mentioned IPU resolution, which urges parliaments "to conduct such electoral reform through a comprehensive, inclusive and open debate that fosters the broadest possible involvement of all stakeholders, authorities, political parties, media and civil society organizations in the electoral process",

Noting that the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa have provided all countries with important lessons on democracy and freedom,

Also noting that those events have shown that people everywhere need democratic and legitimate governments based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections,

Further noting that it is always the people who have the right to determine their own political future based on the cultural and historical characteristics of their nation,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives and that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and it does not belong to any country or region;

Also reaffirming the need for due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination (paragraph 135, 2005 World Summit Outcome, A/RES/60/1),

Mindful that people will not view democracy in a positive light if their livelihood is at stake and that democracy and development are inextricably linked,

Acknowledging that the experiences of other regions and of the past year tend to show that the process of democratization in the Middle East and North Africa will take a significant amount of time, given that it is often a lengthy, unpredictable and complex process, which involves changing power relations in society,

Convinced that the attainment of democracy requires extensive changes that are rooted in constitutions, electoral systems, laws and regulations related to political parties, the media, the justice system, an enabling environment for civil society and, not least, a change in attitudes, including a paradigm shift regarding the place of women in political life,

Also convinced that commitment to the principles of good governance in the management of public affairs will guarantee freedoms and the rule of law, reduce corruption, ensure fair elections, help establish systems and institutions that strive to provide the best services to all sectors of society, and be the best guarantor of political stability,

1. *Invites* all States and parliaments to consider the major lessons drawn from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and the United States, as well as elsewhere in the world, on the need for democratic reform and for governments to provide their people with basic employment and economic opportunities, meet their citizens' demands and guarantee equal opportunities for all;
2. *Recommends* sustained investment in political reform where necessary, possibly to include the creation of independent government watchdogs, the amendment of constitutions, electoral systems, the judicial system, laws, regulations and processes related to political parties and the taking of measures to ensure the functioning of the media, the achievement of gender equality and the involvement of civil society;
3. *Also recommends* that particular attention be paid to security sector reform so that the police, intelligence services and armed forces act within the rule of law, fully respect the fundamental rights of citizens and are held to account for their acts to a democratically elected authority;
4. *Expresses its wish*, with a view to building inclusive societies, that transitional justice and the need to address the past are adequately taken into account in the transition process, in particular through the promotion of the truth, the sentencing of perpetrators, the compensation of victims and the establishment of safeguards to avoid repeating mistakes of the past;
5. *Calls upon* all Member Parliaments that have not done so to ratify and ensure full implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and see to it that freedom of thought, expression and association, as well as other civil and political rights, are guaranteed;
6. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure the establishment of governance systems that will lead to the improvement of people's livelihoods so as to help restore faith in democratic institutions and democracy;
7. *Recommends* that leaders in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as elsewhere in the world, strive to implement policies that will help reduce economic inequality and tackle everyday problems, such as corruption, poverty and the lack of access to health services;
8. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to advocate for increased civic education, with a focus on the fundamental principles of democratic governance, while reflecting the diversity of histories and cultures;

9. *Urges* the international community to stand ready to help countries at their request and to support the transition process while complying with the principle of sovereignty as enshrined in the UN Charter, in order to avoid undue influence on the situation in States and the outcome of elections;
10. *Calls upon* the international community to promote comprehensive reform of the United Nations in order to achieve world peace, security and development through respect for the principles enshrined in its Charter as well as the fair representation of nations;
11. *Encourages* States to comply with the Millennium Declaration, which calls for the promotion of peace, security and human rights and the elimination of hunger and poverty, and stipulates the importance of and right to education in the context of sustainable growth;
12. *Invites* political parties, national parliaments and governments to implement policies and mechanisms aimed at ensuring the participation of women and youth in public political and economic life;
13. *Calls upon* all parliaments to enact legislation and take specific action to enhance their transparency, design information and communication technology tools to facilitate citizens' access to relevant information on parliamentary processes, exercise their oversight function over the other branches of the State and establish mechanisms enabling them regularly and vigorously to reach out to civil society and be answerable to it;
14. *Urges* the IPU to lend support to the democratization process under way in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in areas relating to the process of constitutional reform and the drafting of new electoral laws, as well as the sharing of good practices for open and inclusive electoral processes that are conducive to the establishment of representative and effective parliaments;
15. *Also urges* the IPU to design and implement a programme of technical assistance and capacity-building that supports the newly elected parliaments in the Middle East and North Africa;
16. *Further urges* donor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to honour their aid pledges to the Arab Spring countries in order to rescue their economies, protect them from recession and reduce their levels of unemployment;
17. *Appeals* to the parliaments of the countries where stolen assets have been transferred to urge their governments and banks to recover such assets;
18. *Calls for* an international parliamentary conference on the role of youth in politics in the contemporary world and current technological developments to be held under the auspices of the IPU.

**REDISTRIBUTION OF POWER, NOT JUST WEALTH:
OWNERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS*****Resolution adopted unanimously by the 126th IPU Assembly
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)***

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Convinced that the governance structures of international institutions must be democratized so as to ensure that representative voices of all the world's people are heard,

Mindful that it is extremely urgent to respond effectively to acute and increasing global challenges transcending national borders, all of which threaten the future of humanity and include climate change, the sustainability and security of natural resources, the food crisis, lack of respect for human rights, the failure of financial systems and international trade arrangements, international terrorism and organized crime,

Aware that the priorities of existing multilateral institutions and forums are too often dominated by the interests of certain powerful States and their economies, and that the preoccupations of these States frequently marginalize the needs of those nations and peoples most exposed to the consequences of the economic, social, cultural and political crises with which the multilateral institutions endeavour to grapple,

Considering that the great powers disproportionately generate the very challenges that preoccupy them and affect the world as a whole,

Recognizing that lasting stability and security depend on the representative, transparent, accountable and effective nature of political systems and their institutions, and that this holds true at the neighbourhood, local, provincial, national and international levels,

Concerned that there remains a high degree of underrepresentation of women in positions of power, not only in parliaments and government, but also in international institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank, and that gender mainstreaming is greatly needed to enable women to participate in and contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Mindful that the effective participation of women in all spheres of decision-making and at all levels is crucial for relevant, successful and effective policies, and that the ownership of the agendas of global political institutions must therefore belong to all their constituent members and reflect their different perspectives,

Considering that speedy reform is essential at all levels to provide for inclusive and democratic decision-making and problem-solving and to combat alienation and instability,

Recalling that the preamble and Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations spell out the objectives: "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, ... to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, ... to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social cultural and humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion",

1. *Expresses its conviction* that it is imperative for international institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, to take immediate steps to ensure that their structures and arrangements for governance - including the preparation of agendas, voting arrangements, decision-making processes, records of proceedings and methods of appointing Chief Executives - are made transparent and genuinely democratic and that all staff appointments are based on merit while seeking to achieve geographical, ethnic and gender balance;
2. *Calls* for the establishment alongside the G20 of an inclusive and fully representative global economic council, whose mission would be to coordinate the action of the United Nations and its Member States in the economic and social spheres, and *notes* that such a global economic council could result from reforms to the current UN Economic and Social Council;
3. *Strongly recommends* that the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General be an open and transparent process aimed at finding the most competent and qualified person for the task;
4. *Demands* reform of the membership of the UN Security Council in the near future, particularly regarding its permanent members, that is adapted to the new power balances in the world and gives the Security Council the credibility and effectiveness that it needs in the 21st century to promote peace and international security, as distinct from the post-1945 era;
5. *Appeals* for all appointments within the United Nations system to be made transparently and on the basis of merit while striving to ensure geographical, ethnic and gender balance;
6. *Calls* for mandatory registers of lobbyists or accredited observers and bodies to be introduced at the national and international levels of policy- and decision-making wherever applicable and in accordance with the law in order to ensure that their actions are more transparent and citizens are better informed about them;
7. *Believes* that, notwithstanding the current financial and economic concerns, climate change, by far the greatest challenge facing humanity, should be consistently and effectively addressed through a fair, transparent and equitable process, fully engaging all sections of civil society and respecting the principles of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular equity and common but differentiated responsibilities;
8. *Calls* for sustainable development to be given the highest political priority and *welcomes* the proposal of the Global Sustainability Panel in the context of Rio+20 to create a global sustainable development council;
9. *Strongly encourages* compliance with the requirements of equity and renewal of political commitment to sustainable development based on the Rio principles, both of which should be key objectives of Rio+20 and vital components of legitimate global governance;

10. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to advocate strongly these priorities and work for immediate action by their governments to ensure their rapid implementation;
11. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to advocate special measures and incentives to facilitate the inclusion of women from all walks of life in decision-making and agenda-setting processes at the local, national, regional and international levels;
12. *Further calls upon* parliamentarians to encourage international institutions to revitalize the women's agenda globally and to mainstream gender in their objectives, structures and work;
13. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to strive to generate widespread public understanding of why these priorities are essential and why any delay in implementing them can no longer be tolerated;
14. *Resolves* to ensure that the IPU undertake an annual review of progress worldwide in the areas of integrity, accountability, inclusiveness and fully representative democracy at all levels of power.

ACCESS TO HEALTH AS A BASIC RIGHT: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING KEY CHALLENGES TO SECURING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 126th IPU Assembly
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)***

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recognizing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000), which established eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Underscoring that a human-rights approach is fundamental to achieving these MDGs,

Noting that MDG 4 aims to reduce the under-five child mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 and that MDG 5 aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015,

Concerned that the funding gap to ensure universal access to reproductive health remains unacceptably high and that donor and developing countries need to step up their commitments to achieve the MDGs, in particular MDG 5,

Drawing attention to the fact that improvements in maternal and child health require progress related to poverty and hunger (MDG 1), access to education (MDG 2), gender equality and the empowerment of women (MDG 3), and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and malaria (MDG 6),

Underscoring that the international community has committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015,

Concerned that in 2008 an estimated 358,000 women worldwide died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and *underscoring* that 99 per cent of these deaths occurred in developing countries,

Also concerned that in 2010 an estimated 7.6 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday, with 41 per cent dying in their first month, and that over 170 million children under five worldwide are affected by stunting,

Deeply concerned that maternal and child mortality rates remain unacceptably high globally and that many countries are not on track to achieve MDGs 4 and 5,

Recognizing that less than half of all pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa and only half of all pregnant women in Southern Asia are attended to by skilled health professionals, including midwives, during labour and delivery, which is one of the major factors contributing to maternal and newborn deaths; that midwives are in short supply in many developing countries; and that there is an urgent need, particularly in countries with high maternal mortality rates, to provide assistance in the recruitment, training and support of professional midwives,

Also recognizing that lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and supplies, in particular family planning services, which include contraceptives, is a major contributing factor to maternal mortality,

Noting that ineffective and poorly-resourced health systems, particularly the lack of human resources for health and inaccessible health care facilities, are key impediments to improved health outcomes,

Also noting that the burden on health professionals in many developing countries could be lightened by improvements in health governance, including measures to expand and improve access to skilled birth attendant services,

Reiterating that universal access to reproductive health is one of the targets of MDG 5b,

Concerned that contraceptive prevalence rates are low and the need for family planning and level of unwanted pregnancies are high in many countries with worrisome maternal mortality rates, particularly among adolescents, and that international assistance for family planning has diminished significantly since the year 2000,

Considering that unwanted pregnancies are disproportionately high among young unmarried girls, who also run the highest risk of pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality,

Noting that unsafe abortions account for 13 per cent of maternal deaths,

Also noting that although maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among adolescent girls in most developing countries, adolescent girls are most likely to give birth without skilled birth attendants,

Further noting that young people remain disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for 41 per cent of all new infections among 15 to 49 year-olds, and that young women between the ages of 15 and 19 are particularly vulnerable because of gender inequalities, sexual violence, early marriage, intergenerational relationships and more limited access to education,

Aware of the importance of providing information, education and services that are appropriate to people's age and needs throughout the life cycle,

Affirming that comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and evidence-based is crucial if young people are to be provided with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about their sexuality and given the means to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS,

Aware that a critical window to improve children's health and secure their prospects for life-long development through adequate nutrition exists between pregnancy and a child's second birthday, so as to guarantee them an appropriate role in the country's long-term development with the capacity to assimilate what they learn through the education system,

Affirming the commitment to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Considering the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995),

Recalling the political declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly in June 2011, which committed to working towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS by 2015 and to substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths,

Also recalling Resolution 11/8 on *Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights* adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 17 June 2009,

Welcoming the resolution on *Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women*, adopted by consensus at the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women,

Appreciating the commitment made at the G8 Summit held in Canada in June 2010 to allocate US\$ 7.3 billion to carry out initiatives in the least developed countries (LDCs), to contribute to implementing the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the UN Secretary-General, and the commitment made at the 15th African Union Heads of State Summit (Uganda 2010) to fulfil the pledges taken at the Abuja Summit by allocating 15 per cent of the overall State budget to health,

Mindful of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, as well as the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation,

Considering previous IPU resolutions, in particular those pertaining to the MDGs, women's and children's health, and gender equality and human rights, and the outcome document of the Sixth Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held in 2010,

Affirming that enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is an internationally recognized human right,

Aware that gender is a key determinant of health and that the causes of many of the differences and inequalities between women's and men's health status are social, economic and cultural,

Underscoring that the enhancement of women's and children's health is much more than a policy goal and that States have an obligation to respect, promote, protect and fulfil women's, children's and adolescents' right to health on a non-discriminatory basis,

Committed to realizing the goals of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, and *underscoring* the centrality of parliamentary action therein,

Encouraged by the increasing parliamentary attention in the national, regional and international spheres, and resources being devoted to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health,

Noting, however, that progress in reducing maternal and child mortality has been uneven across regions and within countries, and that this must be addressed as a matter of urgency,

Stressing that special attention must be given to the health needs and rights of women, newborns, children and adolescents who belong to one or multiple vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including those in the poorest households, living in rural and remote areas, and affected by HIV/AIDS, adolescent girls, indigenous women and children, migrant women and children, refugee and internally displaced women and children as well as those in humanitarian, conflict and post-conflict situations, sex workers, and women and children with disabilities, and *recognizing* the importance of introducing measures to reduce inequalities and of commitment to equality of access and outcome for these disadvantaged groups,

Underscoring that equal access to quality education and sexual and reproductive education for all women, children and adolescents is a key intervention that can reduce health inequities and improve health in cases of communicable and non-communicable diseases,

Also underscoring that efforts need to be focused on young people as young men and women, married or unmarried, need access to sexual and reproductive health information and services,

Further underscoring, in keeping with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and key actions for its further implementation, the importance of universal access to post-abortion care and access to safe abortions where they are legal,

Underlining that most maternal and child deaths are preventable and that many are the result of conditions that may be avoided through immunization or treated by well-known and cost-effective interventions,

Convinced that the rationale for prioritizing women's, newborn, children's and adolescent health in development strategies is compelling and that the need to do so is indisputable,

Emphasizing the need for parliamentarians and governments to tackle the problems of ill-health caused by the smoking of tobacco and tobacco products, to coordinate efforts to protect adults and children from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, to deplore the activities of the tobacco companies in targeting markets in LDCs and developing countries, and the need for all countries to adopt the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,

1. *Calls upon* all parliamentarians, both men and women, and the IPU, to take all possible measures to generate and sustain the political will as well as the appropriate resources needed to achieve the MDGs by 2015, and to put in place the policies and commitments needed for the post-2015 period;
2. *Encourages* parliamentarians to collaborate and build partnerships with relevant stakeholders to achieve the health-related MDGs, working closely with governments, civil society, local communities, health care professionals, academics and research institutions, multilateral organizations, global funds and foundations, the media and the private sector;

3. *Recommends* that national parliaments, regional parliamentary assemblies and the IPU hold regular debates on progress towards the realization of MDGs 3, 4, 5 and 6 and target 1.C;
4. *Calls upon* the parliaments of States that have not yet done so to support ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the relevant Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to commit to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;
5. *Urges* parliamentarians to closely monitor the domestic implementation of international, regional and national human rights instruments so as to ensure that all health-related obligations and recommendations, including those under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, the CRC and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are fully implemented and respected by all levels of government, and *calls upon* parliaments to participate in the deliberations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and to seek the support of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians;
6. *Recommends* that parliaments request annual updates on the steps taken by their governments to implement international human rights instruments and programmes related to health and gender equality;
7. *Encourages* parliaments to include gender impact assessments with the introduction of all health-related legislation, and *also encourages* the IPU to facilitate exchanges among its Member Parliaments so as to build capacity in this area;
8. *Invites* parliaments to see to it that national health policies and strategies incorporate a gender perspective, and that education of health care workers and research take full account of the existing gender differences in health;
9. *Urges* parliaments to introduce or amend legislation to guarantee equal access to health services for all women and children without discrimination, and to provide free essential health services for all pregnant women and children;
10. *Also urges* parliaments to establish specialized parliamentary committees on women and children, to monitor progress on the implementation and ratification of resolutions and declarations on women and children, and to address women's and children's health issues more comprehensively;
11. *Further urges* parliaments to pass laws explicitly criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence and in situations of armed conflict, and other forms of violence such as forced sterilization, forced and early marriage and female genital mutilation, and *calls upon* parliaments to enact laws to prevent violence and provide support and reparation to survivors;
12. *Calls upon* parliaments to use the oversight and accountability tools at their disposal throughout the budgetary process, as well as innovative financing approaches, to

ensure that adequate domestic financial resources are allocated for sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, and for achieving MDGs 4, 5 and 6 at the national level;

13. *Requests* parliaments to ensure that the domestic funds and aid allocated to women's and children's health are released and used for the relevant programmes;
14. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to use the oversight and accountability tools at their disposal to work to ensure that all commitments made to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health are fulfilled, and that all the recommendations of the subsequent Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health are implemented;
15. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the WHO, the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF, to provide countries with more of the multifaceted support they need to implement policies and programmes aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality;
16. *Calls upon* parliaments to further enhance support for education in order to improve long-term health outcomes in general and to promote individuals' contribution to society;
17. *Encourages* parliaments to advocate for lines in the health budget to be earmarked for the provision of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services to vulnerable women and children, including those in the poorest households, those living in rural areas, those who are members of indigenous communities or minority groups, those with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, and adolescent girls;
18. *Also encourages* parliaments to support gender-sensitive budgeting as a tool for addressing women's health needs;
19. *Further encourages* parliamentarians to advocate for increasing the number of midwives, assistance with the recruitment, training and support of professional midwives, and the provision of accommodation for mothers, near or in the hospital if necessary, before their delivery, in order to gain access to professional and monitored delivery;
20. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that parliamentary committees entrusted with monitoring issues pertaining to health and gender equality are adequately resourced and operational;
21. *Also urges* parliamentarians in African States to establish a broadly-agreed timetable for their governments to honour their commitments under the 2001 Abuja Declaration;
22. *Invites* the African States that have not yet done so to implement the Maputo Plan of Action for Africa, adopted by the African Union (AU) Summit in 2006, which provides inter alia for the adoption of national roadmaps to reduce maternal, newborn and infant mortality in accordance with the AU roadmap, and *calls for* the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), initiated and launched by the AU in 2009, to be introduced in all countries;

23. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments, in particular those of the G8 countries, to use the oversight and accountability mechanisms at their disposal to monitor the fulfilment of financial commitments made towards health initiatives in the LDCs;
24. *Urges* parliaments and their members to take all necessary measures to enhance women's effective participation and leadership at all levels of health governance;
25. *Calls upon* parliamentarians in countries providing official development assistance (ODA) to work towards increasing their country's ODA for health and to hold their governments to account for honouring their commitments and for reporting – on the basis of common international indicators – on the proportion of ODA being channelled towards reproductive, women's, children's and adolescent health and the promotion of gender equality, and to ensure that these funds are audited in terms of their efficiency and effectiveness;
26. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians in countries that provide ODA to evaluate this spending, including through parliamentary field visits and deliberations in committees on development assistance, to ensure that it prioritizes the recipient countries, sectors, communities and programmes with the greatest demonstrated needs and vulnerabilities, and that these resources are distributed in a more equitable manner;
27. *Encourages* parliamentarians in countries that provide ODA to examine the degree to which their government's ODA is being coordinated with other donors and harmonized and aligned with the health systems, plans and priorities of recipient countries;
28. *Also encourages* parliamentarians in countries that provide ODA to verify that the aid programmes are implemented, in particular in the field of maternal and child health, that they are managed against results-based objectives, and are based on the principle of shared responsibility;
29. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to scrutinize all government health interventions to ensure they are, as far as possible, evidence-based, conform to international human rights standards, and are responsive to regular and transparent performance reviews;
30. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to promote integrated health services, and to advocate for balanced resources to meet the needs of women and children in the pre-pregnancy, pre-natal, birth, post-natal, infancy and early childhood stages, particularly through the decentralization of health services;
31. *Encourages* parliamentarians to ensure a coordinated approach to all matters pertaining to maternal and child health, such as sanitation, access to safe drinking water, the fight against malnutrition, and gender equality;
32. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to ensure free access to vaccines and medicines to protect women and children from disease;
33. *Urges* parliaments to support the training of health professionals, including midwives and birth attendants, as well as universal access to reproductive health information, services and supplies, including contraceptives;

34. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to promote the establishment and/or enhancement, before 2015, of accurate civil registration systems to register all births and deaths and causes of death, particularly in relation to women, children and adolescents;
35. *Urges* parliaments to encourage the development of national information systems that include a gender perspective and data from all health facilities and administrative sources and surveys, which should subsequently be used to inform parliamentary debates;
36. *Encourages* parliaments to take into consideration, including as part of development cooperation, the WHO recommendations on maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, such as the Guidelines for preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries, and to support the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel;
37. *Also encourages* parliaments to explore innovative approaches to health service design and delivery, including the use of information and communications technologies such as tele-medicine and mobile phones, in order to reach women, children and adolescents in remote areas, to facilitate emergency responses to births, and to collect and disseminate health information as widely as possible and in accessible formats to women with disabilities, and to ensure sex education;
38. *Calls upon* parliaments to work with governments to consider the establishment of transparent domestic accountability mechanisms for maternal and child health, one form of which could be a multi-stakeholder national commission that reports to parliament;
39. *Requests* the IPU to facilitate collaboration and exchanges among its Member Parliaments so as to build the capacity of parliamentarians to monitor all policy and programme areas, as well as the above-mentioned budgetary and legislative activities;
40. *Encourages* the IPU to enhance cooperation with the specialized UN agencies and parliamentary networks engaged in the promotion of women's and children's health and rights;
41. *Requests* the IPU to develop an accountability mechanism - based on the 2011 report of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, *Keeping Promises, Measuring Results* - to monitor the progress of Member Parliaments in implementing this resolution between the date of its adoption and 2015, and to publish the results of that review annually;
42. *Urges* parliamentarians to work for age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and evidence-based sex education for all young people;
43. *Also urges* parliamentarians, in keeping with the ICPD Programme of Action, to ensure universal access to post-abortion care and to make sure that abortions are safe where they are legal as a means of saving the lives of girls, adolescents and women.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON MALI

***Endorsed by the 126th IPU Assembly
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)***

We, the representatives of the national parliaments meeting in Kampala at the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

Are profoundly concerned at the military coup d'état that took place in Mali on 22 March 2012 and overthrew the legitimate authorities,

Support the negotiations undertaken by the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and of the African Union with the military junta with a view to an immediate restoration of the Republic's institutions,

Demand that the military junta make a commitment to honour its solemn declaration of 1 April 2012 aimed at effectively restoring the Republic's institutions, and to relinquish power,

Urge all the parties to safeguard the country's cultural heritage,

Ask the IPU to lend its full support to the President of the Republic, the Parliament and people of Mali in their ordeal and in view of the worsening humanitarian crisis,

Call upon the international community to back the decisions made by the Heads of State of ECOWAS aimed at restoring peace, rule of law and democracy in Mali and the integrity of its territory.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION INITIATIVE FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE BLOODSHED AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA, AND THE NEED TO ENSURE ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN AID FOR ALL PERSONS IN NEED AND TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL RELEVANT ARAB LEAGUE AND UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND PEACE EFFORTS

***Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 126th IPU Assembly
(Kampala, 5 April 2012)***

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolution on "Strengthening democratic reform in emerging democracies, including in North Africa and the Middle East", adopted unanimously by the 124th IPU Assembly (Panama City, 2011), which urged all parties to refrain from violence and to ensure in particular that human rights are respected; called on all governments to respect the right to peaceful self-determination of peoples; and expressed concern for the humanitarian impact of the political changes in the region on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children,

Also recalling the resolution entitled "Furthering parliamentary democracy in order to protect human rights and encourage reconciliation among peoples and partnership among nations", adopted by the 110th IPU Assembly (Mexico City, 2004), in which the Assembly "underlines that the holding of truly free and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage, monitored by independent election authorities, is always of paramount importance in the establishment of parliaments reflecting national diversity and, particularly in countries emerging from violent conflict, is essential in consolidating and advancing the reconciliation process" and "calls on parliaments to respect the political rights of opposition parties and freedom of the press",

Expressing its solidarity and sympathy for the Syrian people, whose democratic freedoms and human rights are being systematically and brutally undermined by their own government,

Noting that sustained and unjustified violence continues to be perpetrated against the Syrian people, including the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, denial of access to medical treatment, and the torture of and violence against men, women and children,

Cognizant of the serious humanitarian crisis and *dismayed* by the mounting loss of life and injury being caused by this violence, largely due to armed attacks perpetrated by the Syrian Government against its own population,

Alarmed by these authorities' use of heavy military equipment, including artillery and combat tanks, against towns and other population centres and their resorting to mass murder, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detained persons, in particular children,

Noting the need to hold to account the perpetrators of human rights violations, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity,

* The delegations from Chile, Cuba, South Africa, Uganda and Viet Nam expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 12, while the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela rejected the entire resolution, which, in their view, was unbalanced.

Also noting the League of Arab States plan of 2 November 2011 and their decisions of 22 January and 12 February 2012 respectively, agreed to by the Syrian Government, which called in particular for an immediate end to violence against protestors, the release of political prisoners, the removal of all tanks and armoured vehicles from the streets and the convening of a meeting in Cairo for dialogue with the opposition,

Further noting the declaration of the League of Arab States of 29 March 2012,

Considering the repeated demands by the United Nations and the League of Arab States for the Syrian Government to honour its commitment to the Arab League plan and to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the evacuation of wounded persons,

Recalling the decisions of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, on strengthening international humanitarian law and domestic legislation for disaster-risk reduction, addressing regulatory barriers to providing emergency and transitional shelter in a rapid and equitable manner after natural disasters, and humanitarian access and assistance,

Noting the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 16 February 2012, which strongly condemned "the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities, such as the use of force against civilians, arbitrary executions, the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, interference with access to medical treatment, torture, sexual violence, and ill-treatment, including against children",

Recalling the statement issued by the President of the UN Security Council on 21 March 2012, in which the Security Council expresses its full support for the efforts of Kofi Annan, the Special Joint Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and his six-point proposal to commit to appoint an empowered interlocutor to address the aspirations of the Syrian people; a cessation of violence; the provision of humanitarian assistance in affected areas; the release of arbitrarily detained persons; freedom of movement for journalists; and freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully,

Also recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) on women and peace and security,

Further recalling the resolutions of 29 April 2011, 23 August 2011, 2 December 2011 and 1 and 23 March 2012 of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and *underscoring* that in its resolutions of 2 December 2011 and 1 and 23 March 2012, the Council strongly condemns the systematic and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms that the Syrian authorities continue to commit,

Underscoring its respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and *rejecting* any external military intervention,

Noting that the Syrian Government held discussions with the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and that it agreed on 27 March 2012, but has not yet implemented, his six-point proposal, which envisages a UN-supervised ceasefire and the establishment of political dialogue between government and opposition groups,

Concerned by the grave risk to regional stability and security posed by the Syrian Government's use of violence rather than dialogue to address calls for reform,

Frustrated by the continued failure of the Syrian Government to respond to or implement the decisions and resolutions of international and regional bodies,

1. *Calls* for an immediate cessation of the violence and human rights violations and abuses in Syria and *also calls* for full compliance by all parties with international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations;
2. *Supports* the efforts of international and regional organizations to bring about a peaceful end to the crisis in Syria;
3. *Urges* the United Nations and the League of Arab States to redouble their efforts to assist in bringing about an end to armed violence in Syria and to address the current humanitarian crisis;
4. *Supports* the unprecedented leadership and efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and his six-point proposal for resolving the situation in Syria;
5. *Calls upon* the Syrian Government to honour its commitment to this proposal and its earlier commitment to the Arab League Plan, including withdrawing military personnel from cities, ending the use of heavy weapons, releasing political prisoners and cooperating fully and immediately with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to facilitate the unhindered and safe provision of humanitarian assistance and to allow the evacuation of the wounded from affected areas;
6. *Urges* the commencement of an inclusive political process in Syria to address the legitimate democratic aspirations and concerns of the Syrian people;
7. *Underscores* that this political process must be conducted in an environment free of violence, torture, fear, intimidation, discrimination and extremism;
8. *Expresses* the hope that this process can lead to an all-inclusive democratic political system, in which all citizens are equal;
9. *Underscores* the pivotal role the IPU can play in coming to the assistance of emerging democracies, fostering political reconciliation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts, and in upholding and protecting the principles of representative democracy, human rights and gender equality;
10. *Requests* the IPU to dispatch an international parliamentary fact-finding mission to the Syrian territories to examine the reality of the situation arising from the violence and the deliberate hampering of the activities of international and Arab relief organizations, and to issue an urgent report to the IPU membership with a view to taking the necessary measures;
11. *Urges* parliaments to provide all necessary humanitarian assistance to all persons in Syria affected by the violence and to participate in making immediate preparations for extending such assistance, including in neighbouring countries;
12. *Supports* the continuation of diplomatic and economic sanctions on the Syrian Government until such a time as the situation improves significantly;
13. *Requests* the IPU President to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 127th IPU Assembly and at the United Nations.

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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Présidente du Parlement de l'Ouganda
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Président de l'Union interparlementaire

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Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

VIANEY, João Baptista (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Staff / *Secrétariat*

CHINHONI, José Adelino (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Staff / *Secrétariat*LUKOKI, Ambrosio (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Angola to Uganda
*Ambassadeur de l'Angola en Ouganda***ARGENTINA – ARGENTINE**FILMUS, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Senator, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee
*Sénateur, Président de la Commission des relations
extérieures (FV-PJ)*

ESCUDERO, Sonia Margarita (Mrs./Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice (PJ)*

GIUSTINIANI, Ruben (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur (PS)*¹ (FLN: National Liberation Front
(RND: National Democratic Rally/ *Front de libération nationale*)
/ *Rassemblement national démocratique*)
(MSP: Movement for a Peaceful Society
/ *Mouvement de la société pour la paix*)² (DA: Democrats for Andorra
(PS: Social Democratic Party/ *Démocrates pour Andorre*)
/ *Parti social-démocrate*)³ (MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola/ *Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola*)

ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PJ)
ATANASOF, Alfredo Néstor (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (FP) ⁴
PERIE, Julia Argentina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
GIACCONE, Claudia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
SCHMIDT LIERMANN, Cornelia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
ESTRADA, Juan Hector (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire parlementaire, Sénat</i>
LENZ, Horacio (Mr./M.)	Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur des relations internationales de la Chambre des Députés</i>
URRIOLABEITIA, Gonzalo (Mr./M.)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

SLIPPER, Peter (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ADAMS, Dick (Mr./M.) Deputy Leader of the delegation <i>Chef adjoint de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (ALP)
SECKER, Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (LP)
FITZGIBBON, Joel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (ALP)
BOYCE, Sue (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (LP) ⁵
RADCLIFFE, Jeanette (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
SURTEES, Claressa (Ms./Mme) Substitute member of the ASGP <i>Membre suppléant de l'ASGP</i>	
KNAPP, Tim (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker / <i>Conseillère du Président</i>

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

SILHAVY, Heidrun (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (SPÖ)
NEUGEBAUER, Fritz (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the National Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national</i> (ÖVP)
GRAF, Martin (Mr./M.)	Third President of the National Council <i>Troisième Président du Conseil national</i> (FPÖ)
MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (G)
MARKOWITZ, Stefan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (BZÖ) ⁶

⁴ (FV: Victory Front / *Front de la victoire*)
(PJ: Justicialist Party / *Parti justicialiste*)
(PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
(FP: Federal Peronist / *Péroniste fédéral*)

⁵ (LP: Liberal Party / *Parti libéral*)
(ALP: Australian Labour Party / *Parti travailliste australien*)

WINTONIAK, Alexis (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General of the Parliamentary
Administration / *Secrétaire général adjoint de
l'administration parlementaire*

BRENNER, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)

Head of the EU and International Services
Chef des Services européen et international

LANDERTSHAMMER, Sophie (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

International Relations Division
Division des relations internationales

AZERBAIJAN – AZERBAIDJAN

ALIYEV, Ilham (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MIRASLANOV, Hliman (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

VALIYEV, Ahmad (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

AGAYEV, Babek (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

ABDULRAHMAN, Salah (Mr./M.)
Member of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS,
Leader of the delegation / *Membre du Groupe
consultatif sur le VIH/sida, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Council of Representatives, Chairman
of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and
National Security / *Membre du Conseil des
Représentants, Président de la Commission des affaires
étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité nationale*

ABDULLA, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the Council of Representatives
Membre du Conseil des Représentants

TAQAWI, Sawsan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Council of Representatives, Chairperson
of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and
National Security / *Membre du Conseil des
Représentants, Présidente de la Commission des affaires
étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité nationale*

AL-GAOUUD, Lateefa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Council of Representatives
Membre du Conseil des Représentants

AL-MUBARAK, Aysha (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Coordinating Committee of
Women Parliamentarians / *Membre du Comité
de coordination des Femmes parlementaires*

Member of the Shura Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

NASSIF, Jameela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Council of Representatives
Membre du Conseil des Représentants

ZOWAYED, Jamal (Mr./M.)

Acting Secretary General / *Secrétaire général par interim*

AL-SHUROOQI (Mr./M.)

Head of protocol / *Chef du protocole*

ALHADDAD, Abdulla (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

⁶ (SPÖ: Social Democratic Party
(ÖVP: People's Party
(FPÖ: Freedom Party
(G: Greens
(BZÖ: Alliance for the Future of Austria

/ *Parti social démocrate)*
(*Parti populaire)*
(*Parti de la liberté)*
(*Les Verts)*
(*Alliance pour l'avenir de l'Autriche)*

BANGLADESH

HAMID, Md. Abdul (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament, Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Privileges, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure, Chairman of the Committee on Petitions <i>Président du Parlement, Président du Comité consultatif sur les entreprises, Président de la Commission permanente des privilèges, Président de la Commission permanente du règlement, Président de la Commission de l'examen des pétitions (AL)</i>
CHOWDHURY, Saber Hossain (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
HAQUE, Md. Mujibul (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i>
CHOWDHURY, A.B.M. Fazle Karim (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Housing and Public Works <i>Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission permanente du logement et des travaux publics (AL)</i>
HYEE, Md. Abdul (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
KHAN, Md. Abdul Majid (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
RAHMAN, Md. Matiur (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
MOSTAFA, Golam (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (BNP)</i>
AKHTER, Nazma (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> ⁷
NESSA, Fazilatun (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
RAHMAN, Md. Mahfuzur (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
BARUA, Shampad (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
ABEDIN, Md. Joynal (Mr./M.)	Director, Public Relations / <i>Directeur des relations publiques</i>
ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr./M.)	Senior Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire principal adjoint</i>

BELARUS

POTUPCHIK, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la République</i>
BUSKO, Vitaly (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Standing Committee Chairperson / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de commission</i>
NAUMCHIK, Alla (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Republic <i>Membre du Conseil de la République</i>
POGREBNAYA, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Secretary, Council of the Republic <i>Secrétaire au Conseil de la République</i>

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

TEMMERMAN, Marleen (Ms./Mme) Vice-President of the Group, President of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, Leader of the delegation / <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Présidente du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice (sp.a)</i>
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⁷ (AL: Bangladesh Awami League
(JP: Jatiya Party
(BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party

/ *Ligue Awami du Bangladesh*
) *Parti Jatiya*)
) *Parti nationaliste du Bangladesh*

de DONNEA, François-Xavier (Mr./M.)
President of the Committee on Middle East
Questions / *Président du Comité sur les*
questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.)
President of the Committee on the Human Rights
of Parliamentarians / *Président du Comité des*
droits de l'homme des parlementaires

VAN EETVELDE, Miranda (Ms./Mme)

HONDEQUIN, Hugo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

DE PELSEMAEKER, Ides (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.)
Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the
delegation / *Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe*
et de la délégation

NAGO, Mathurin (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Member of the Executive
Committee, Leader of the delegation / *Président du*
Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la
délégation

ASSOGBA, Françoise (Mrs./Mme)

QUENUM, Epiphane (Mr./M.)

GONROUDOBOU, Orou Dèkè (Mr./M.)

ZINSOU, Edmond (Mr./M.)

KOTO SOUNON, René (Mr./M.)

GUIDI, Kouassi (Mr./M.)

BONOU, Lucien (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp

ZINWOTA, Henri (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*

GBEKAN, Firmin (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*

ZOHOUN, Pascal (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*

Member of the House of Representatives, State Minister,
President of the Committee on Foreign Relations
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Ministre
d'Etat, Président de la Commission des relations
extérieures (MR)

Senator, Co-Chairman of the Committee on European
Affairs / *Sénateur, Co-Président du Comité d'avis fédéral*
chargé des questions européennes (PS)

Member of the House of Representatives
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (N-VA)*⁸

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants

Director, European Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary
Relations Department, Senate / *Directeur du Service des*
affaires européennes et des relations interparlementaires
du Sénat

Senior Adviser, House of Representatives
Premier Conseiller à la Chambre des Représentants

BENIN

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Second Controller of the National Assembly
Deuxième Questeur de l'Assemblée nationale

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Deputy Administrative Secretary General
Secrétaire général administratif adjoint

Protocol Officer / *Chargé du protocole*

⁸ (sp.a: Flemish Socialist Party
(MR: Liberal Party (French)
(PS: Socialist Party (French)
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance

/ *Parti socialiste Flamand*
(MR: *Parti libéral (francophone)*
(PS: *Parti socialiste (francophone)*
(N-VA: *Nouvelle Alliance flamande*)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KALABIĆ, Drago (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Parliamentary Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire</i> (SNSD)
CEMALOVIĆ, Nermina (Ms./Mme)	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (SDP BiH)
FRANJIČEVIĆ, Mato (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the House of People <i>Président de la Chambre des Peuples</i> (HDZ) ⁹
MIJAČEVIĆ, Marina (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

BRAZIL – BRÉSIL

LINS, Atila (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PSD)
NOGUEIRA, Ciro (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PP)
NAPOLEÃO, Hugo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PSD)
QUINTELLA LESSA, Mauricio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PR)
da FONTE, Eduardo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PP) ¹⁰
MELO, Joana (Ms./Mme)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs / <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
CABRAL de ARAÚJO, Silvia (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

BISSEROV, Hristo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (DPS) ¹¹
SLAVCHOV, Ivan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
IVANOVA, Sonya (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

BURKINA FASO

KABORÉ-KOALA, Aline (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
OUEDRAOGO, Salfó Théodore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADJ)
BADO, Dema Raphaël (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADF/RDA)
DICKO, Amadou Diemdiouda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CFR)

⁹ (SNSD: Party of Independent Social Democrats / *Parti social-démocrate indépendant*)
(SDP BiH: Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina / *Parti social-démocrate de Bosnie-Herzégovine*)
(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / *Parti démocratique croate*)

¹⁰ (PSD: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)
(PP: Progressive Party / *Parti progressiste*)
(PR: Party of the Republic / *Parti de la République*)

¹¹ (DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / *Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés*)

TRAORE, Mélégué (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> ¹²
NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KERE, Dieudonné (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Director of International Cooperation, National Assembly <i>Directeur de la coopération internationale de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

BURUNDI

KABURA, François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPRONA)
NDITIJE, Charles (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPRONA)
NIRAGIRA, Félix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CNDD-FDD)
BERAHINO, Glorioso (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CNDD-FDD) ¹³
NDIKUMANA, Evariste (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BARINAKANDI, Juvénal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

NHEM, Thavy (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
YANG, Sem (Mr./M.)	Senator, Vice Chairperson of the Sixth Commission of the Senate / <i>Sénateur, Vice-Président de la sixième Commission du Sénat</i>
TROEUNG, Thavy (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Protocol and International Relations Department of the Senate / <i>Directeur du Département du protocole et des relations internationales</i>
OU DAM, Khlang (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation / <i>Assistant de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director of the International Relations Department, National Assembly / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des relations internationales de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation / <i>Assistant de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office <i>Chef adjoint du Bureau des relations multilatérales</i>

¹² (CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress / *Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès*)

(ADJ: Alliance for democracy and justice / *Alliance pour la démocratie et la justice*)

(ADF/RDA: Alliance for democracy and Federation / *Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération* / *Rassemblement démocratique africain*)

(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces / *Convention des forces républicaines*)

¹³ (UPRONA: Union for National Progress / *Union pour le progrès national*)

(CNDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy / *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie*)

(FDD: Front for the Defense of Democracy / *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie*)

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
ABDOULAYE, Bougue (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
EKINDI, Jean-Jacques (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PM)
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
HAMADOU, Sali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC) ¹⁴
YÉNÉ OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Director, General Administration Service <i>Directeur de l'administration générale</i>
BOUBA, Simala (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Officer, Speaker's Bureau <i>Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président</i>
MAKONGO DOOH, Alexandre (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	

CANADA

OLIVER, Donald H. (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate <i>Président intérimaire du Sénat</i> (CPC)
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (LPC)
ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (CPC)
BEZAN, James (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons, Chairman of the Committee on National Defence / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes, Président du Comité de la défense nationale</i> (CPC)
CROWDER, Jean (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons, Chairperson of the Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes, Présidente du Comité sur l'accès à l'information, la protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique</i> (NDP)
CHARLTON, Chris (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (NDP)
ARMSTRONG, Scott (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (CPC)
JAFFER, Mobina (Ms./Mme)	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights <i>Sénatrice, Présidente du Comité des droits de la personne</i> (LPC) ¹⁵
PELLETIER, Serge (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Executive Secretary / <i>Secrétaire exécutif</i>

¹⁴ (RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
(PM: Progressive Movement

¹⁵ (CPC: Conservative Party of Canada
(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada
(NDP: New Democratic Party

/ *Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais*)
(/ *Mouvement progressiste*)
(/ *Parti conservateur du Canada*)
(/ *Parti libéral du Canada*)
(/ *Nouveau parti démocratique*)

JACKSON, Joseph (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senior Director, Reference and Strategic Analysis <i>Directeur principal référence et analyse stratégique</i>
GOODY, Allison (Ms./Mme)	Analyst / <i>Analyste</i>
BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, House of Commons <i>Sous-Greffier, Chambre des Communes</i>
RATZEL, Astrid (Ms./Mme) Conference Coordinator (127 th Assembly) <i>Coordinatrice de conférence (127^{ème} Assemblée)</i>	
MATHIEU, Catherine (Ms./Mme) Logistics Coordinator / <i>Coordinatrice de la logistique</i>	

CHAD – TCHAD

KABADI, Haroun (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i>
KADAM, Moussa (Mr./M.) President of the Group / <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Group Chairman / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président du Groupe parlementaire (MPS)</i>
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDT)</i>
NGARGNARGUE, Mahamat Ousmane (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDT)</i>
NEATOBEI BIDI, Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP/JS)</i>
DALLAH, Biouh Pabamé (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RNDT Le Réveil)</i>
ISSAKHA HAROUN, Fatouma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i>
NDOUABNADJI TARAM, Delphine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FAR-PF)</i>
HAMID KODYA, Moustapha (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> ¹⁶
BRÉMÉ, Mahamat Hassane (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
GUEMESSOU, Adoum (Mr./M.)	Director of the Speaker's Bureau of the National Assembly <i>Directeur du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BOUKAI, Souleyman Hassab (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of Protocol / <i>Directeur adjoint du protocole</i>
WALLET, Abdelkader (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

CHILE – CHILI

LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)</i>
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (PS)</i>

¹⁶ (MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement
(RNDT/Le Réveil: Rally of Chadian Nationalists
(FAR: Front of Action Forces for the Republic

/ *Mouvement patriotique du salut*
/ *Rassemblement des Nationalistes Tchadiens*
/ *Front des forces d'action pour la république*

CRISTI, María Angélica (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Member <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (UDI)
TUMA, Eugenio (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PPD)
KUSCHEL, Carlos Ignacio (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (RN)
PASCAL ALLENDE, Denise (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PS)
GARCÍA, René Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (RN)
BOBADILLA, Sergio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDC) ¹⁷
OSES, Juan (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate <i>Commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat</i>
BUSTOS, Marcelo (Mr./M.) GRULAC Adviser / <i>Conseiller du GRULAC</i>	
PEILLARD GARCÍA, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directrice des relations internationales à la Chambre des Députés</i>

CHINA – CHINE

SANG GUOWEI (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress / <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHA PEIXIN (Mr./M.)	Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Vice-Président du Comité des affaires étrangères</i>
SUN WENSHENG (Mr./M.)	Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture and Rural Affairs / <i>Membre de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Vice-Président du Comité des affaires rurales et de l'agriculture</i>
HAN XIAOWU (Mr./M.)	Member and Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress <i>Membre et Secrétaire général adjoint de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
PANG LIJUAN (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress / <i>Membre de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
XIONG WEI (Mr./M.)	Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office, National People's Congress Standing Committee <i>Directeur du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Comité permanent de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
LI CHUNXUE (Mr./M.)	Director, Service Centre of the Organizations, General Office of the Standing Committee / <i>Directeur du Service des organisations de la Commission permanente</i>

¹⁷ (PDC: Christian Democratic Party / *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)
(PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / *Union démocrate indépendante*)
(PPD: Party for Democracy / *Parti pour la démocratie*)
(RN: National Renewal / *Rénovation nationale*)

WANG TIEZHONG (Mr./M.)	Director, Bureau of Secretaries, General Office of the Standing Committee / <i>Directeur du Bureau des secrétaires de la Commission permanente</i>
LIU DEYU (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau, General Office, National People's Congress Standing Committee / <i>Directeur adjoint du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Comité permanent de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
MAO JUNGFENG (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Vice-Chairman / <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président</i>
SU QIANG (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
YU LEI (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
XU YONG (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
LU YUANJING (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
HOU DONG (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
ZOU WEIYE (Mr./M.)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SUN YILIANG (Mr./M.)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SHANG WEI (Mr./M.)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
WANG JIULING (Mr./M.)	
Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
LIN HUI (Mr./M.)	
Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

CORZO ROMÁN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (CP)
Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
ANDRADE SERRANO, Hernán (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (CP) ¹⁸

CONGO

KOUMBA, Justin (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly / <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PCT)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
OBAMI-ITOU, André (Mr./M.)	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (PCT)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
KIGNOUMBI KIA-BOUNGOU, Joseph (Mr./M.)	Member and Second Secretary of the National Assembly / <i>Membre et deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPADS)
Acting President and Secretary of the Group / <i>Président délégué et Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
FOUTY-SOUNGOU, Philomène (Mrs./Mme)	Member and First Secretary of the Senate Bureau / <i>Membre et première Secrétaire du Bureau du Sénat</i> (MAR)
Acting President and Secretary of the Group / <i>Présidente déléguée et Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
KIDZIE, Epiphane Hilaire (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PCT)
MOUDZALO, Solange Jacqueline (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PCT)
SITA BITORI, Léonard (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (MCDDI) ¹⁹

¹⁸ (CP: Conservative Party

/ *Parti conservateur*)

¹⁹ (PCT: Congolese Workers Party

/ *Parti congolais du travail*)

(UPADS: Pan-African Union for Social Democracy

/ *Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale*)

(MAR: Constituent Congress of the Action & Renewal Movement

/ *Congrès constitutif du Mouvement Action Renouveau*

(MCDDI: Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development

/ *Mouvement congolais pour la démocratie et le développement intégral*)

KIAKOUAMA, Guillaumette (Ms./Mme)	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
M'BOUNGOU-BILONG, Eugène (Mr./M.)	Director of the Cabinet of the Second Secretary of the National Assembly / <i>Directeur de Cabinet du deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AMBALI-OBENGA, André (Mr./M.)	Director of the Cabinet of the Speaker of the National Assembly / <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
OKOELE, Gaspard (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Attaché, Inter Parliamentary Relations, National Assembly <i>Attaché aux relations interparlementaires, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOYONGO, Jean Célestin (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Parliamentary and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs to the President of the Senate / <i>Conseiller aux affaires parlementaires et interparlementaires du Président du Sénat</i>
GOMA, Léandre (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Legal Attaché, Officer in charge of Parliamentary Affairs, reporting to the First Secretary of the Senate/ <i>Attaché juridique, Chargé des affaires parlementaires de la première Secrétaire du Sénat</i>
NGUENGUE, Emile (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director, Senate <i>Directeur du protocole du Sénat</i>
NGUELOUALA, André (Mr./M.)	Private Protocol Officer to the President of the Senate <i>Chargé du protocole particulier du Président du Sénat</i>
NDINGA AOBA, Marie Pascal (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Collaborateur du Président du Sénat</i>

COSTA RICA

GÓMEZ FRANCESCHI, Agnes (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PLN)</i>
MONESTEL CONTRERAS, Martín (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PASE)</i>
ENRIQUEZ GUEVARA, Adonay (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PML)</i> ²⁰

CROATIA – CROATIE

ĐUROVIĆ, Dražen (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (HDSSB)</i>
MARTINČEVIĆ, Natalija (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (HNS)</i> ²¹
KREŠIĆ, Ilijana (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	

CUBA

PEZ FERRO, Ramón (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ, Rebeca (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>

²⁰ (PLN: National Liberation Party
(PASE: Accessibility Without Exclusion
(PML: Liberty Movement

/ *Parti de libération nationale*
/ *Parti de l'accès sans exclusion*
/ *Mouvement libéraire*

²¹ (HDSSB: Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja
(HNS: Croatian People's Party

/ *Alliance démocratique de Slavonie et Baranja*
/ *Parti populaire croate*

MARTINEZ, Ada (Mrs./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

VILLAMONTES, Francisco Javier (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Cuba to Uganda
Ambassadeur de Cuba en Ouganda

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

MITSOPOULOS, Tasos (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation, Member of the
Governing Council / *Chef de la délégation,*
Membre du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DISY)

KYRIAKIDOU, Athina (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Governing Council
Membre du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DIKO)

KOUKOUMA KOUTRA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the Governing Council
Membre du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson
of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved,
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons / *Membre de la*
Chambre des Représentants, Présidente de la
Commission des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, des
personnes disparues et des personnes en situation
difficile (AKEL)

MAVRONICOLA, Roula (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (EDEK)*²²

SOCRATOUS, Socrates (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

International Relations Officer
Chargée des relations extérieures

CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

FUKSA, Ivan (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ODS)

PARKANOVÁ, Vlasta (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy
Chairperson of the Steering Committee / *Vice-Présidente*
de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Présidente du Bureau
restreint (TOP09-S)

POSPÍŠIL, Jirí (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur (ODS)*

LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)
Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
Membre du Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman
of the Committee on European Affairs / *Membre de la*
Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission
des affaires européennes (Top09)

VIDÍM, Jan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the
Defence Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des*
Députés, Président de la Commission de la défense
(ODS)

HORSKÁ, Miluše (Ms./Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice*

²² (DISY: Democratic Rally
(DIKO: Democratic Party
(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People
(EDEK: Movement of Social Democrats

/ *Rassemblement démocratique)*
/ *Parti démocratique)*
/ *Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)*
/ *Mouvement social-démocrate)*

KONÍČEK, Vladimír (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Petitions / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission de l'examen des pétitions</i> ²³
KYNŠTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>
UKLEIN, Jirí (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
ŽELEZNÁ, Lucie (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Foreign Relations Department, Chamber of Deputies <i>Département des relations étrangères à la Chambre des Députés</i>
MERKL, Radek (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senate / <i>Sénat</i>

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE

HONG, Son Ok (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM, Kyong Ho (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
HYON, Jong Ung (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM, Hak Song (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
PAK, Myong Guk (Mr./M.)	Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Fonctionnaire au Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO, Edouard (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
SENDWE, Peggy (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NKOY MAFUTA, Bernadette (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
BYAZA SANDA, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire générale du Sénat</i>
KATAKO MASUDI, Josué (Mr./M.)	Head of Office of the First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Chef de Cabinet du premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (Mr./M.) Administrative Joint Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Adviser and Coordinator, Senate Research Office <i>Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat</i>
ILUNGA WA ILUNGA, Jeannot (Mr./M.)	Officer on Special Duty to the First Vice-President of the Senate / <i>Chargé des missions auprès du premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
NKOY ALONGE, Carine (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to the First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Assistante du premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
YAMBA (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
MOBANGABI MOKWETI, Camille (Mr./M.)	Expert
MASSALA, Jean-Pierre (Mr./M.) Chargé d'affaires	

²³ (ODS: Civic Democratic Party
(TOP09-S: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09
(KSCM: Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

/ *Parti démocratique civique*)
/ *Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09*)
/ *Parti communiste de la Bohême et de la Moravie*)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

LORENTZEN, Kristian Pihl (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (LP)
CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (DPP)
BJERREGAARD, Jacob (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (SD)
LOKLINDT, Lone (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (SLP)
NONBO, Karsten (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (LP)
STOEJBERG, Inger (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (LP)
POULSEN, Lisbeth Bech (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (SPP)
JOEL, Jens (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (SD) ²⁴
DETHLEFSEN, Claus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Counselor / <i>Conseiller</i>
LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire assistant</i>	Higher Executive Officer / <i>Cadre supérieur</i>
FEINBERG, Nathalia (Ms./Mme) Ambassador of Denmark <i>Ambassadeur du Danemark</i>	

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

CASSINELLI, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BUSTAMANTE, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (AP)
FERNANDEZ, Scheznarda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (AP) ²⁵
CUJI COELLO, Henry Alberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMEIDA ECHEVERRIA, Elena del Carmen (Ms./Mme)	Director, International Relations <i>Directrice des relations internationales</i>
LEDESMA, Galo (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>
HERRERA, Silvia (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
VILLAFUERTE, Jorge (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

EGYPT – EGYPTÉ

EL-KATATNY, Mohamed Saad (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
EL-ERIAN, Essam (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>

²⁴ (LP: Liberal Party (Venstre) / *Parti libéral (Venstre)*)
(DPP: Danish Peoples' Party / *Parti populaire danois*)
(SD: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)
(SLP: Social Liberal Party / *Parti social libéral*)
(SPP: Socialist People's Party / *Parti populaire socialiste*)

²⁵ (AP: Alianza Pais)

AHMED, Khalil (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
SEBAK, Tarek (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
HAMZAWY, Amr (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
MALAK, Marian (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
ELBAB, Ali Fath (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shoura Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la Choura</i>
BADRAN, Abdallah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shoura Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la Choura</i>
MAHRAN, Sami (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary General of the People's Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
AL-SHEIKH, Yousri (Mr./M.)	Director, President's Office, People's Assembly / <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
ABDELWAHAB, Ashraf (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol / <i>Chef du protocole</i>
TALAAT, Sherif (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINEE EQUATORIALE

ROKU ENUMBIE, Juan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of People's Representatives, Second Secretary of the Bureau / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple, Deuxième Secrétaire du Bureau (PDGE)</i> ²⁶
EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÕIV, Tõnis (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Riigikogu / <i>Membre du Riigikogu (ERP)</i>
NOOL, Erki (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riigikogu / <i>Membre du Riigikogu (IRL)</i>
ÕUNAPUU, Jaan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riigikogu / <i>Membre du Riigikogu (SDE)</i>
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Riigikogu / <i>Membre du Riigikogu (ECeP)</i> ²⁷
SIBUL, Heiki (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Riigikogu <i>Secrétaire général du Riigikogu</i>
OTSEPP, Riina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department <i>Chef adjointe du Département des relations extérieures</i>

²⁶ (PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea

/ *Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale*)

²⁷ (ERP: Reform Party

/ *Parti de la réforme*)

(IRL: Pro Patria and Res Publica Union

/ *Union Pro Patria et Res Publica*)

(SDE: Estonian Social Democratic Party

/ *Parti social-démocrate d'Estonie*)

(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party

/ *Parti estonien du centre*)

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

GEBREHIWOT, Tekeleberhan Kassa (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the Federation <i>Président de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
ESHETE, Ayelech (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Children and Youth Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux enfants et à la jeunesse</i>
BUAYALEW, Yohannes (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Regional Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires constitutionnelles et régionales</i>
TESEMA, Tekle (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Security and Defence Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la sécurité étrangère et de la défense</i>
ABDI, Hassen (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Whip <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple, Chef de file</i>
LEMA, Megersa (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
TILAHUN, Meles (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
DEMESSIE, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
DAMDAEMO, Yoseph (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
LEMMA, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
NINI ABINO, Habtamu (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
GEZACHEW, Mulugeta (Mr./M.) Special Assistant to the Group <i>Assistant spécial du Groupe</i>	Information and Communication Officer <i>Chargé de l'information et de la communication</i>

FINLAND – FINLANDE

LOHELA, Maria (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (PS)
KOMI, Katri (Ms./Mme) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (KESK)
HEMMILÄ, Pertti (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (KOK)
KARHU, Saara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (SDP)
UOTILA, Kari (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (VAS)
NYLUND, Mats (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (RKP) ²⁸

²⁸ (PS: True Finns / *Finlandais authentiques*)
(KESK: Centre Party / *Parti du centre*)
(KOK: National Coalition Party / *Coalition nationale*)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)
(VAS: Left Alliance / *Alliance de gauche*)
(RKP: Swedish People's Party / *Parti populaire suédois*)

VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

HUTTUNEN, Marja (Mrs./Mme)
Assistant Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe

KULKKI, Sanni (Ms./Mme)
Advisor to the President of the Group
Conseillère de la Présidente du Groupe

Secretary, International Affairs
Secrétaire aux affaires étrangères
Assistant to the International Affairs
Assistante aux affaires internationales

FRANCE

MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Substitute Member of the
Committee on the Human Rights of
Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation
*Président du Groupe, Membre suppléant du
Comité des droits de l'homme des
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation*

DEL PICCHIA, Robert (Mr./M.)
President of the Twelve Plus Group
Président du Groupe des Douze Plus

JANQUIN, Serge (Mr./M.)
Member of the Committee on Middle East
Questions / *Membre du Comité sur les
questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme)

BILLOUT, Michel (Mr./M.)

LUQUIENS, Corinne (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

RIVAILLE, Danièle (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

BOURASSÉ, Philippe (Mr./M.)
Executive Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

DRAIN, Michel (Mr./M.)
Executive Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

DEILHES, Thierry (Mr./M.)
Logistics Officer / *Responsable de la logistique*

MICHEL, Alexandre (Mr./M.)
Twelve Plus Group Secretariat
Secrétariat du Groupe des Douze Plus

CORNET, Anne-Céline (Ms./Mme)
Twelve Plus Group Secretariat
Secrétariat du Groupe des Douze Plus

LE NAHENEK, Agathe (Miss/Mlle)
Joint Secretary of the ASGP / *Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP*

VÉLASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP
Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

Member of the National Assembly / *Député (UMP)*

Senator / *Sénateur (UMP)*

Member of the National Assembly / *Député (PS)*

Senator / *Sénatrice (PS)*

Senator / *Sénateur (CRC)*²⁹

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale

Secretary General of the Questure (Finance) of the
National Assembly / *Secrétaire générale de la Questure
de l'Assemblée nationale*

Deputy Director, Senate / *Directeur adjoint au Sénat*

Deputy Director, National Assembly
Directeur adjoint à l'Assemblée nationale

Deputy Adviser, National Assembly
Administrateur adjoint à l'Assemblée nationale

Administrator, National Assembly
Administrateur à l'Assemblée nationale

Deputy Administrator, Senate
Administratrice adjointe au Sénat

Administrator, National Assembly
Administratrice à l'Assemblée nationale

Services Secretary, National Assembly
Secrétaire des Services à l'Assemblée nationale

²⁹ (UMP: People's Movement Union
(PS: Socialist Party
(CRC: Republican and Citizen Communist Group

/ *Union pour un mouvement populaire*
/ *Parti socialiste*
/ *Groupe communiste républicain et citoyen*

GABON

OWONO NGUEMA, François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Fifth Vice-President of the Senate <i>Cinquième Vice-Président du Sénat</i> (PDG)
MOULENGUI-MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, <i>ex Officio</i> Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité</i> <i>exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de</i> <i>coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Finance / <i>Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission</i> <i>des finances</i> (PDG)
BAYOGHA NEMBE, Célestin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
MAGANGA MOUSSAVOU, Albertine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PSD)
MVE EBANG, Marcellin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG) ³⁰
NONGOU MOUNDOUNGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MODANDI, Moïse (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, Parliamentary Relations <i>Directeur des relations parlementaires</i>
NWEKAYE, Jean Bernard (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Administrator <i>Administrateur parlementaire</i>

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

BAKRADZE, David (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du</i> <i>Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de</i> <i>la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Président du Parlement</i> (UNM)
VEPKHVADZE, Levan (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Président du Parlement</i> (CD)
GOGORISHVILI, Khatuna (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Committee on Procedural Issues and Rules / <i>Membre du Parlement,</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des questions de procédures</i> <i>et des règlements</i> (UNM)
MELADZE, Giorgi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Economy Sector and Economic Policy / <i>Membre du</i> <i>Parlement, Président de la Commission du Secteur</i> <i>économique et de la politique économique</i> (UNM)
BEZHUASHVILI, David (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Leader of the Parliamentary Majority / <i>Membre du Parlement, Chef de la majorité</i> <i>parlementaire</i> (UNM) ³¹
JANIASHVILI, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
KOPLATADZE, Victoria (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief Specialist, Department of International Relations <i>Spécialiste principale, Département des relations</i> <i>internationales</i>

³⁰ (PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party
(PSD: Social Democrat Party

³¹ (UNM: United National Movement
(CD: Christian Democrats

/ *Parti démocratique gabonais*

/ *Parti social démocrate*)

/ *Parti du mouvement national*)

/ *Parti démocrate chrétien*)

UJMAJURIDZE, Irakli (Mr./M.) Assistant to the Speaker / *Assistant du Président*
 SIKHARULIDZE, Aleksander (Mr./M.)
 Chief Security Officer / *Chef de la sécurité*
 LEZHAVA, Irakli (Mr./M.)
 Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) Speaker of the Bundestag
 President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council (01/04/2012), Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur (01/04/2012), Chef de la délégation
 ERNSTBERGER, Petra (Ms./Mme) Member of the Bundestag
 Member of the Governing Council (05/04/2012), Deputy Leader of the delegation / *Membre du Conseil directeur (05/04/2012), Chef de la délégation adjointe*
 GÖTZ, Peter (Mr./M.) Member of the Bundestag
 Member of the Governing Council (01/04/2012)
Membre du Conseil directeur (01/04/2012)
 KRÜGER-LEISSNER, Angelika (Ms./Mme) Member of the Bundestag
 Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council / *Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur*
 SILBERHORN, Thomas (Mr./M.) Member of the Bundestag
Membre du Bundestag, (CDU/CSU)
 ULRICH, Alexander (Mr./M.) Member of the Bundestag
 Substitute Member of the Governing Council
Membre suppléant du Conseil directeur
 WINKLER, Josef Philip (Mr./M.) Member of the Bundestag
 Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council (05/04/2012) / *Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur (05/04/2012)*
 SEMMLER, Harro (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Bundestag
 Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
 SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary General of the Bundestag
 Vice-President of the ASGP / *Vice-Président de l'ASGP*
 RETTLER, Ute (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary General of the Bundesrat
 Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
 KREBS, Andrea (Ms./Mme) Head, International Parliamentary Assemblies Division,
 Adviser / *Conseillère*
 MÜGGENBURG, Hardo (Mr./M.) International Parliamentary Assemblies Division,
 Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*
 SARENIO, Susanne (Mrs./Mme) International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag
 Assistant to the delegation / *Assistante de la délégation*

³² (CDU: Christian Democratic Union
 (CSU: Christian Social Union
 (SPD: Social Democratic Party
 (Die Linke: Left Party
 (Bündnis90/Grüne: Green Party

/ *Union chrétienne démocrate*
 / *Union chrétienne sociale*
 / *Parti social démocrate*
 / *La Gauche*
 / *Les Verts*

BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Mrs./Mme)
Assistant to the delegation / *Assistante de la délégation*

International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag
Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag

PRANGE, Tim (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Officer, Federal Foreign Office
Fonctionnaire, Ministère des affaires étrangères

GHANA

BAMFORD-ADDO, Joyce Adeline (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of Parliament / *Présidente du Parlement*

AVOKA, Cletus Apul (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Majority Leader
Membre du Parlement, Chef de la majorité (NDC)

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Minority Leader
Membre du Parlement, Chef de la minorité (NPP)

GBEDIAME, Gershon (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Majority Chief Whip
Membre du Parlement, Chef de file de la majorité (NDC)

KLENAM, Gifty (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement* (NPP)³³

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

Clerk of Parliament / *Greffier du Parlement*

GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)

Deputy Clerk of Parliament / *Adjoint du Greffier du Parlement*

ANAMAN, Perpetual (Ms./Mme)

Speaker's Secretary / *Secrétaire de la Présidente*

ASIEDU-LARTEY, Paul (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / *Chargé du protocole*

GUINEA-BISSAU – GUINEE-BISSAU

DJALÓ, Sori (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Second Deputy Speaker of the People's National Assembly ad interim / *Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire par intérim* (PRS)

N'DEQUI, Matilde (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)

CASSAMÁ, Almame (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)

CRATO SÓ, Isabel (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)³⁴

SILVA, Orlando (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

DIAS, Fernando Jorge (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Director of Cabinet / *Directeur de Cabinet*

NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / *Chargé du protocole*

HAITI

RICHÉ, Andris (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

JOSEPH, François Anick (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

BENOIT, Steven (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

³³ (NDC: National Democratic Congress

(NPP: New Patriotic Party

³⁴ (PRS: Party for Social Renovation

(PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde

/ *Congrès démocratique national)*

/ *Nouveau parti patriotique)*

/ *Parti de la rénovation sociale)*

/ *Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert)*

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

GRUBER, Attila (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FIDESz)
BRAUN, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FIDESz)
MANDUR, László (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, member of the Committee on Press and Culture / <i>Membre de</i> <i>l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la Commission</i> <i>de la presse et de la culture</i> (MSZP)
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de</i> <i>l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission</i> <i>des affaires étrangères</i> (Jobbik)
SZILÁGYI, Péter (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (LMP) ³⁵
SOMFAI ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senior Councillor of the Office for Foreign Relations <i>Conseillère principale au Bureau des relations extérieures</i>
JUHÁSZ, Sándor (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Hungary to Uganda <i>Ambassadeur de la Hongrie en Ouganda</i>	

ICELAND – ISLANDE

BACKMAN, Thuridur (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i> (LG)
ARNASON, Arni (Mr./M.)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i> (SDA)
GUDFINNSSON, Einar K. (Mr./M.)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i> (IP) ³⁶
BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser on International Affairs <i>Conseillère des affaires étrangères</i>

INDIA – INDE

KUMAR, Meira (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil</i> <i>directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker, Lok Sabha / <i>Présidente du Lok Sabha</i>
SARDINHA, Francisco (Mr./M.)	Member of Lok Sabha / <i>Membre du Loka Sabha</i> (INC)
RAO, Hanumantha (Mr./M.)	Member of the Rajya Sabha / <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha</i> (INC)
MAHATO, Narahari (Mr./M.)	Member of the Lok Sabha / <i>Membre du Lok Sabha</i> (AIFB)
SOLANKI, Kirit Premjibhai (Mr./M.)	Member of the Lok Sabha / <i>Membre du Lok Sabha</i> (BJP)
KUMARI, Putul (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Lok Sabha / <i>Membre du Lok Sabha</i> (IND)
ZUBIN IRANI, Smriti (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Rajya Sabha / <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha</i> (BJP) ³⁷

³⁵ (FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party
(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary
(LMP: Politics Can Be Different
³⁶ (LG: Left-Green Movement
(SDA: Social Democratic Alliance
(IP: Independence Party
³⁷ (INC: Indian National Congress
(AIFB: All India Forward Block
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party

/ *Union civique hongroise*)
(Parti socialiste hongrois)
(Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)
(Faire de la politique autrement)
(Mouvement des Verts de la gauche)
(Parti de l'Alliance sociale-démocrate)
(Parti de l'Indépendance)
(Parti du Congrès national indien)
(Bloc progressiste)
(Parti Bharatiya Janata)

VISWANATHAN, T.K. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Lok Sabha / <i>Secrétaire général, Lok Sabha</i>
AGNIHOTRI, V.K. (Mr./M.) Executive Member of the ASGP <i>Membre exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General Rajya Sabha <i>Secrétaire général, Rajya Sabha</i>
SHEKAR, S. Bal (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire supplémentaire, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
JOHN, Cyril (Mr./M.)	Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Directeur, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
WALIA, N.S. (Mr./M.)	Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat <i>Directeur, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha</i>
SINGH, Shalini (Mrs./Mme)	Private Secretary to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha <i>Secrétaire particulière de la Présidente du Lok Sabha</i>
MISHRA, S.R. (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
ANAND, Rakesh (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat <i>Directeur adjoint, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha</i>
BALYAN, K.P. (Mr./M.)	Officer on Special Duty to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha <i>Fonctionnaire en mission spéciale auprès de la Présidente du Lok Sabha</i>
SALEEM, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Chargé de liaison, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

CAKRA WIJAYA, Andi Anzhar (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire (PAN)³⁸</i>
DJUNED, Achmad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
SUTHARSA, Tatang (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of the Bureau of the Secretary General <i>Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général</i>
HANTORO, Novianto Murti (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Parliamentary Researcher / <i>Chercheur parlementaire</i>
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
ASTUTI, Endang Dwi (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
RUBINI, Nida (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
SOEMANTRI, Acep (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation / <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
NURHAYATI, Juriani (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	
ROHANA, Maria Pade (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

³⁸ (IND: Independant/ *Indépendant*)

(PAN: National Mandate Party

/ *Parti du mandat national*)

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

FALLAHAT PISHEH, Heshamtollah (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
JAHANGIRZADEH, Javad (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
ABBASI, Asadollah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
MOUSAVI, S. Naser (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
HOSSEINI SADR, Moayed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
ZOLGHADR, S. Mostafa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
AJOORLOU, Fatemeh (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
ZAMANI, Javad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
DEHGHANI, Mohamad Ghayoum (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
SHAIKHOLESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Chief, Speaker's Bureau, Director General, International Department / <i>Secrétaire général, Chef du Cabinet du Président, Directeur général du Département international</i>
GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Expert of the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat of the Islamic Consultative Assembly / <i>Expert principal du Secrétariat interparlementaire de l'Assemblée consultative islamique</i>
GHASHGHAHI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Director, Protocol Department <i>Directeur du Département du protocole</i>
NIKNAM, Maryam (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	
MALEKI, Hussein (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
AHMADI, Kurosh (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
ABDULMALEKI, Farzanieh (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	

IRAQ

HAMOUDI, Humam Baqir (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations étrangères (INA)</i>
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AL-JUMAILI, Salman Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission des relations étrangères</i> (INM)
TALEBANI, Ala Tahseen (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i> (KA)
NOSHI, Rafea Abduljabar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i> (INA) ³⁹
AL-ZANGANA, Salahaldeen Ahmad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
RADHI, Mustafa Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
IBRAHIM, Abbas Radhi (Mr./M.)	Media Officer / <i>Chargé des médias</i>

IRELAND - IRLANDE

KITT, Michael (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Dáil Éireann <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann</i> (FG)
McFADDEN, Nicky (Ms./Mme)	Member of Dáil Éireann / <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann</i> (FG)
MATTHEWS, Peter (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann</i> (FG)
LYONS, John (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann</i> (L)
ZAPPONE, Katherine (Ms./Mme)	Member of Seanad Éireann <i>Membre de Seanad Éireann</i> (I) ⁴⁰
DOODY, Bridget (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs <i>Chef des affaires interparlementaires</i>

ITALY – ITALIE

CONTINI, Barbara (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (FLI)
GRIMOLDI, Paolo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (LNP)
MIGLIORI, Riccardo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PdL)
NAPOLI, Osvaldo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PdL)
RAZZI, Antonio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PT) ⁴¹
GRAZIAN, Giampaolo (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>
RADONI, Susanna (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Chamber of Deputies / <i>Chambre des Députés</i>
ACCARRINO, Luisa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the ASGP / <i>Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	Chamber of Deputies / <i>Chambre des Députés</i>

³⁹ (INA: National Alliance / *Alliance nationale*)

(INM: « Al-Iraqia »)

(KA: Kurdistan Alliance / *Alliance kurde*)

⁴⁰ (FG: Fine Gael / *Parti travailliste*)

(L: Labour Party

(I: Independent / *Indépendant*)

⁴¹ (FLI: Futuro e libertà per l'Italia)

(LNP: Lega Nord Padania)

(PdL: People of Freedom / *Peuple de la liberté*)

(PT: Popolo e territorio)

LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chamber of Deputies / *Chambre des Députés*

OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

Senate / *Sénat*

JAPAN – JAPON

NISHIMURA, Chinami (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the
delegation / *Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef
de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives, Director of
the Standing Committee on Budget, Director, Special
Committee on Political Ethics and Election Law
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Présidente
de la Commission permanente du budget, Présidente de
la Commission spéciale de l'éthique politique et des lois
électorales (DPJ)*

MURATA, Yoshitaka (Mr./M.)
Member of the Governing Council
Membre du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives, Director,
Special Committee on Political Ethics and Election Law
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de
la Commission spéciale de l'éthique politique et des lois
électorales (LDP)*

ONISHI, Kensuke (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)

HAYAKAWA, Kumiko (Ms./Mme)
Substitute Member of the Governing Council
Membre suppléant du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)

TAMURA, Tomoko (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Governing Council, Deputy Leader
of the delegation / *Membre du Conseil directeur,
Chef adjoint de la délégation*

Member of the House of Councillors
Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (JCP)⁴²

SANO, Keiko (Ms./Mme)

Associate Director for Coordination, Inter-Parliamentary
Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House
of Representatives / *Co-Directrice pour la coordination de la
Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des
affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

ARAI, Kosumo (Ms./Mme)

Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division,
International Affairs Department, House of
Representatives / *Directeur adjoint de la Division des
relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires
internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

SUMITA, Tomoko (Ms./Mme)

Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division,
International Affairs Department, House of
Representatives / *Secrétaire, Division des relations
interparlementaires, Département des affaires
internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

SUGIYAMA, Jin (Mr./M.)

Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division,
International Affairs Department, House of
Representatives / *Secrétaire, Division des relations
interparlementaires, Département des affaires
internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

IGARI, Hiroaki (Mr./M.)

Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division,
International Affairs Department, House of
Representatives / *Secrétaire, Division des relations
interparlementaires, Département des affaires
internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

⁴² (DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan
(JCP: Japanese Communist Party

/ *Parti démocrate japonais*)
/ *Parti communiste japonais*)

SHIMIZU, Ken (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / <i>Directeur, Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr./M.)	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / <i>Secrétaire de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
NITTA, Mayuko (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / <i>Secrétaire de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
TAKAGI, Duggal Izumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
KIKUCHI, Kyoko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
IKEUCHI, Hisao (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SASAJIMA, Sanae (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
ENSO, Takako Butel (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
YOSHIDA, Kazuko Ingham (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SAWADA, Naoko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
YAMAMOTO, Chieko Allford (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

JORDAN – JORDANIE

ENSOUR, Abdalla (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ROUSAN, Nareman (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
DKADEK, Intisar (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
EL-ABBADI, Mahmoud (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
AL-BARAISEH, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
OMARI, Naef (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALRUDINI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALMASHAKBEH, Adnan (Mr./M.)	Head of the Public Relations Department, Senate <i>Chef du Département des relations publiques du Sénat</i>

ALWAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Head of the Presidency Affairs Section, House of Representatives / <i>Chef de la Section des affaires de la Présidence</i>
ALTARAWNEH, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Parliamentary Affairs Section, House of Representatives / <i>Chef de la Section des affaires parlementaires internationales</i>

KENYA

MAALIM, Farah Mohamed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ODM)
ODHIAMBO, Alfred (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ODM)
ABDALLAH, Shakila (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ODM-K)
M'MITHIARU, Ntoitha (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PNU)
GANYA, Chachu (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ODM) ⁴³
AMOLO, Lawrence (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk Assistant / <i>Greffier adjoint</i>
ODHOWA, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Deputy Speaker <i>Assistant particulier du Vice-Président</i>
THURANIRA, Anita (Ms./Mme)	

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-SAADOUN, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-AJMI, Ammar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-DAMKHEE, Adel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-MATAR, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-SHAYEE, Shayee (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-SAWAG, Falah (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-KHALEFA, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-GHANEM, Marzouq (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-KANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AL-WEHAIB, Tawfeeq Saud (Mr./M.)	Assistant Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
AL-SHAYEE, Sami (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-DEGHASHEM, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-ENEZI, Shehab (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
ALABDULGADER, Nasser (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>

⁴³ (ODM: Orange Democratic Movement Party of Kenya
(ODM-K: Orange Democratic Movement Party-Kenya
(PNU: Party of National Unity

/ *Mouvement démocratique orange*)
/ *Mouvement démocratique orange-Kenya*)
/ *Parti de l'unité nationale*)

AL-BURAZI, Ayed (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-SOBAIEE, Moslet (Mr./M.)	Press / <i>Presse</i>
GAMBER, Bader (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-ENEZI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-SELAHEE, Najeeb (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
SHISHTAR, Mona (Mrs./Mme)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
AL-OTAIBI, Faleh (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
REPUBLICUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO**

AKHAMOUNTRY, Koukeo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (LPRP)</i> ⁴⁴
SANEXAY, Sadettan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director of IPU Division <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division de l'UIP</i>

LATVIA – LETTONIE

MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Saeima, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Saeima, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (CC)</i>
OZOLINS, Janis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Saeima, Vice-Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee / <i>Membre du Saeima, Vice-Président de la Commission du budget et des finances (Z)</i> ⁴⁵
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau <i>Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires</i>

LEBANON – LIBAN

ELZEIN, Abdellatif (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Children / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la femme et de l'enfant</i>
NASSOUR, Ramez (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

LESOTHO

MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / <i>Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)</i> ⁴⁶
MABELENG, Katleho (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Private Secretary / <i>Secrétaire particulier</i>

⁴⁴ (LPRP: Lao People's Revolutionary Party

/ *Parti populaire révolutionnaire lao*)

⁴⁵ (CC: Concord Centre

/ *Centre concorde*)

(Z: Zatlars' Reform Party

/ *Parti de la réforme de Zatlars*)

⁴⁶ (LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy

/ *Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho*)

LUXEMBOURG

WOLTER, Michel (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission des finances et du budget (CSV)</i>
BETTEL, Xavier (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman of the Legal Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission juridique (DP)</i>
BAUSCH, François (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary Control of the State Information Service / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission de contrôle parlementaire du Service de Renseignement de l'Etat (Déi Gréng)</i> ⁴⁷
BARRA, Isabelle (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>

MALAWI

MPHANDE, Juliana (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)</i>
MWALE, Theresa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)</i>
JANGIYA, Mwalone (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)</i> ⁴⁸
NJLOMOLE, Henry (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk of Parliament / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
KACHERE, Edgar (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation / <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	Assistant Clerk of Parliament / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
CHIUSIWA, Michael (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of Committee Section <i>Chef du Secrétariat de commission</i>
MALEKA, Bambi (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to the Second Deputy Speaker <i>Assistante du deuxième Vice-Président</i>

MALDIVES

SHAHID, Abdulla (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Majlis <i>Président du Majlis des Citoyens</i>
ABDULLA, Eva (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis des Citoyens (MDP)</i>
FAHMY, Imthiyaz (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis des Citoyens (MDP)</i>
NAEEM, Yoosuf (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis des Citoyens (DRP)</i> ⁴⁹
ARIF, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis des Citoyens</i>
MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

⁴⁷ (CSV: Christian Social Party
(DP: Democrat Party
(Déi Gréng: Greens

⁴⁸ (DPP: Democratic Progressive Party
(UDF: United Democratic Front
/ *Parti chrétien social)*
/ *Parti démocrate)*
/ *Les verts)*

⁴⁹ (MDP: Maldives Democratic Party
(DRP: Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party)
/ *Parti démocratique progressiste)*
/ *Front démocratique unifié)*
/ *Parti démocratique des Maldives)*

RIZA, Abbas Adil (Mr./M.)

Spokesperson, Speaker's Office
*Porte-parole au Bureau du Président*AHMED, Abdul Gafoor (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité***MALTA – MALTE**MIFSUD, Philip (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (EPP)

MIZZI, Joseph (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PSE) ⁵⁰**MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE**BOULKHEIR, Messaoud (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (APP)

EL HACEN EL HADJ, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

First Vice-President of the Senate
Premier Vice-Président du Sénat

YARBA, Fatimettou (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ZNAGUI CHEIKH, Ould Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Senator, First Secretary of the Senate
Sénateur, Premier Secrétaire du Sénat

SEMETTA, Mah (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RFD) ⁵¹LEKOUAIRY, Mohamed Vall (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MED ELHACEN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Speaker's Cabinet Director / *Directeur du Cabinet du Président***MAURITIUS - MAURICE**PEETUMBER, Maneswar (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTR)

NAVARRE MARIE, Marie Arianne (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMM) ⁵²**MEXICO – MEXIQUE**GREEN MACIAS, Rosario (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on International
Affairs / *Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission
des affaires internationales (PRI)*ALONSO DIAZ-CANEJA, Angel (Mr./M.)
Vice-President of the Executive Committee
*Vice-Président du Comité exécutif*Senator, Chairman of the Committee on External Relations,
International Organizations / *Sénateur, Président de la
Commission des relations extérieures, organisations
internationales (PAN)*

ORTUÑO, Maria Teresa (Mrs./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Education Committee
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission de l'éducation (PAN)

CONTRERAS, Armando (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (PRD)*⁵⁰ (EPP: European People's Party/ *Parti populaire européen*)

(PSE: Social Democratic Party

/ *Parti social-démocrate*)⁵¹ (APP: People's Progressive Alliance/ *Alliance populaire progressiste*)

(RFD: Rally of Democratic Forces

/ *Rassemblement des Forces Démocratiques*)⁵² (PTR: Labour Party/ *Parti travailliste*)

(MMM: Militant Mauritian Movement

/ *Mouvement militant mauricien*)

MENCHACA CASTELLANOS, Ludivina (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PVEM)
MARTEL LOPEZ, José Ramón (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PRI)
GARCÍA PORTILLO, Arturo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PAN)
MUÑOZ LEDO, Porfirio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i> (PT)
LAGOS GALINDO, Silvio (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PRI)
NADAL, Daniela (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PRI) ⁵³
ENRIQUEZ BALDAZO, Arelí (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, International Affairs <i>Directrice des affaires internationales</i>

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

DEMBEREL, Damdin, (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Chairman of the State Great Hural <i>Président du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (MPRP)
GAVAA, Batkhuu (Mr./M.)	Vice-Chairman of the State Great Hural <i>Vice-Président du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (DP)
TSEGMID, Tsengel (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (MPRP)
ENKHTUVSHIN, Ulziisaikhan (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (MPP)
SAIKHANBILEG, Chimed (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (DP) ⁵⁴
SHARAVDORJ, Tserenkhuu (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the State Great Hural <i>Secrétaire général du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
TSERENDORJ, Narantungalag (Mr./M.)	Head of the Foreign Relations and Cooperation Department of the Secretariat, State Great Hural <i>Chef du Département des affaires étrangères et de la coopération du Secrétariat du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
GENDEN, Bayasgalan (Mrs./Mme)	Senior Officer, Foreign Relations and Cooperation Department / <i>Fonctionnaire principale au Département des affaires étrangères et de la coopération</i>
SHARAV, Sodnomjamts (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	Head of the Press and Public Affairs Department <i>Chef du Département de la presse et des affaires publiques</i>
KHAIDAV, Sukh-Ochir (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	Press and Public Affairs Department <i>Département de la presse et des affaires publiques</i>
TSEVGE, Tuya (Mrs./Mme) Doctor to the Speaker / <i>Médecin du Président</i>	
BATBOLD, Maruush (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
BADAMDORJ, Ganbold (Mr./M.) Senior Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité principal</i>	

⁵³ (PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party

(PAN: National Action Party

(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party

(PVEM: Green Party of Mexico

(PT: Labour Party

⁵⁴ (MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party

(DP: Democratic Party

(MPP: Mongolian People's Party

/ *Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel*)

/ *Parti de l'Action nationale*)

/ *Parti de la révolution démocratique*)

/ *Parti vert écologiste du Mexique*)

/ *Parti travailliste*)

/ *Parti populaire révolutionnaire mongole*)

/ *Parti démocrate*)

/ *Parti populaire mongole*)

DAMJIN, Tulga (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*
GANKHULUG, Tumurtogoo (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

MOROCCO – MAROC

GHELLAB, Karim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BENALLAL, Mohamed Fawzi (Mr./M.)	First Vice-President of the House of Councillors <i>Premier Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
OMARI, Abdelaziz (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BOUAYAD, Zoubida (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (USFP)</i>
HANINE, Mustapha (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)</i>
KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)</i>
BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)</i>
BENABDALLAH, Ouadia (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)</i>
LAZREK, Nouréddine (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)</i> ⁵⁵
EL ABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELKHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
KHOUJA, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Councillors <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
EL JAFFALI, Mounir (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller diplomatique à la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BELRHITI, Alaoui (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Adviser / <i>Conseiller diplomatique</i>
SATRAOUY, Said (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Chief, Multilateral Relations, House of Representatives <i>Chef du Service des relations multilatérales de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of External Relations Division, House of Councillors / <i>Chef de la Division des relations extérieures de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>

MOZAMBIQUE

KATUPHA, José Mateus (Mr./M.) President of the Group / <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
MIGUEL, Maria Josefa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
CINQUENTA NAULA, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (RENAMO)</i> ⁵⁶

⁵⁵ (USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces
(PI: Istiqlal
(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party
(RNI: National Rally of Independents

/ *Union socialiste de forces populaires)*
/ *Parti de l'Istiqlal)*
/ *Parti authenticité et modernité)*
/ *Rassemblement national des Indépendants)*

MACHAIEIE, Baptista Ismael (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

BONIFÁCIO, César João (Mr./M.)
Assistant Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe

Director, Standing Committees Division
Directeur de la Division des commissions permanentes

MYANMAR

NYEIN, Myan (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Union
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union

KYAW SWA, Nanda (Mr./M.)
Co-Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

MYINT OO, Hla (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman
of the Foreign Relations Committee / *Membre de la
Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission
des relations étrangères*

TIN, Nyunt (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

GURIRAB, Theo-Ben (Dr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)

MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret (Mrs./Mme)
Second Vice-President of the Coordinating
Committee of Women Parliamentarians
*Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Comité de
coordination des Femmes parlementaires*

Vice-Chairperson of the National Council
Vice-Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)

AMWEELO, Moses (Mr./M.)
Vice-President of the Group / *Vice-Président du Groupe*

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)

TJONGARERO, Agnes (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)

NAKWAFILA, Johannes (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)

LUCKS, Heiko (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)

SHILENGA, Rosalia (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)

NHINDA, Ruth (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Council
*Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)*⁵⁷

SIPAPELA, Sipapela (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

JACOBS, Johannes Jakes (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary, National Assembly
Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale

MUPURUA, Juliet (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary, National Council
Secrétaire adjointe au Conseil national

ISAAK, Willem H. (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Senior Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Fonctionnaire parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale

SINALUMBU, Vincent (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, Research, Information and Publications
*Directeur adjoint de la recherche, de l'information et des
publications*

⁵⁶ (FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance
⁵⁷ (SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress

/ *Front de libération du Mozambique)*
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance
(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress

SHALI, Auguste (Mrs./Mme) Co-Secretary of the Group / <i>Co-Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Clerk, Committee Services, National Council / <i>Greffière parlementaire, Service des Commissions du Conseil national</i>
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam (Ms./Mme)	Private Secretary to the Vice-Chairperson <i>Secrétaire particulière de la Vice-Présidente</i>
KAUSIONA, Windeline (Ms./Mme)	Human Resources / <i>Ressources humaines</i>
ISAACK, Japhet (Mr./M.) High Commissioner / <i>Haut Commissaire</i>	

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

PUTTERS, Kim (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate of the States General <i>Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux (PvdA)</i>
MARTENS, Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate of the States General <i>Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux (CDA)</i>
DIJKHOFF, Klaas (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (VVD)</i>
SMEETS, Pauline (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (PvdA)</i>
ELISSEN, Andre (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (PVV)</i> ⁵⁸
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate of the States General <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat des Etats-généraux</i>
BIESHEUVEL-VERMEIJDEN, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Office <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires</i>

NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

HENARE, Tau (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Maori Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des affaires maori (NP)</i>
WALL, Louisa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NZLP)</i>
LOGIE, Jan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (G)</i> ⁵⁹
HART, Wendy (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Committee Clerk / <i>Greffière de commission</i>

⁵⁸ (PvdA: Labour Party
(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal
(VVD: Liberal Party
(PVV: Party for Freedom

⁵⁹ (NP: National Party
(NZLP: Labour Party
(G: Green Party

/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Rassemblement chrétien-démocrate*
/ *Parti libéral*
/ *Parti de la liberté*
/ *Parti national*
/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Les verts*

NIGER

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Ms./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Vice-President of the Group / *Vice-Présidente du Groupe* *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

NIGERIA

MARK, David (Mr./M.) President of the Senate / *Président du Sénat* (PDP)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

IHEDIOHA, Chukwuemeka Nkem (Mr./M.) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Deputy Leader of the delegation / *Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants* (PDP)
Chef adjoint de la délégation

USMAN, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.) Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary
Affairs / *Sénateur, Président de la Commission des*
affaires parlementaires (PDP)

BARATA, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.) Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Culture,
Tourism and National Orientation / *Sénateur, Président*
de la Commission de la culture, du tourisme et de
l'orientation nationale (PDP)

ESUENE, Helen (Ms./Mme) Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Women
Affairs and Youth Development / *Sénatrice, Présidente*
de la Commission des affaires féminines et du
développement de la jeunesse (PDP)

REYENIEJU, Daniel (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of
the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de
la Commission des relations interparlementaires (PDP)

BELLO, Fatima Bintu (Ms./Mme) Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson
of the Committee on Women in Parliament / *Membre*
de la Chambre des Représentants, Présidente de la
Commission des femmes au parlement (PDP)

AROWOSOGÉ, Ifeoluwa Abiose (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ACN)

DOGUWA, Alhassan Ado (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ANPP)

UZAMERE, Ehigie Edobor (Mr./M.) Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Local and
Foreign Debts / *Sénateur, Président de la Commission*
de la dette locale et étrangère (ACN)

IDRIS, Mohammed Sani (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chairman
of the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs / *Membre de*
la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la
Commission des affaires parlementaires (PDP)⁶⁰
Adviser / Conseiller

MAIKASUWA, Salisu Abubakar (Mr./M.) Clerk to the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

SANI-OMOLORI, Mohammed A. (Mr./M.) Clerk of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

ADEGBITE DUDUYEMI, Lawal (Mr./M.) Deputy Clerk, Senate
Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

GARBA, Lawal (Mr./M.) Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*
Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.) Special Assistant to the Clerk of the National Assembly
Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée
nationale

⁶⁰ (PDP: People's Democratic Party
(ACN: Action Congress of Nigeria
(ANPP: All Nigeria People's Party

/ *Parti démocratique populaire*
/ *Congrès du Nigéria pour l'action*
/ *Parti des peuples du Nigéria*

ABUBAKAR, Badamasi (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / <i>Greffier de commission</i>
UMEKWE, Udo (Mr./M.)	Official / <i>Fonctionnaire</i>
MUMEH, Paul (Mr./M.)	Chief Press Secretary / <i>Attaché de presse</i>
NDIWE, Arthur (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol, Senate / <i>Directeur du protocole au Sénat</i>
UKOHA, David (Mr./M.)	
Personal Physician / <i>Médecin particulier</i>	
MARK, Igoche (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Assistant particulier du Président du Sénat</i>
NDAM, Nanzing (Mr./M.)	Orderly / <i>Planton</i>
CHIKEZIE, Emerenini Samuel (Mr./M.)	Chief Detail to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives / <i>Assistant du Vice-Président de la</i> <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
OKE EPIA, Edward (Mr./M.)	Chief Press Secretary to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives / <i>Secrétaire en chef des médias</i> <i>auprès du Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ISA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer / <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères</i>
ABUBAKAR, Mohammed Kudu (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ANIAGWU, Charles Ehiedu (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
GARKUWA, Jibril (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ABBA-OGBODO, John (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
AGANDE, Benjamin (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	

NORWAY – NORVEGE

HEGGØ, Ingrid (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Storting / <i>Membre du Storting</i> (LP)
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Conseil directeur,</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
VAKSDAL, Øyvind (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting / <i>Membre du Storting</i> (PP)
Deputy Leader of the delegation, Member of the Governing Council / <i>Chef adjoint de la</i> <i>délégation, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	
WICKHOLM, Truls (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting / <i>Membre du Storting</i> (LP)
Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	
HAGEN, Aksel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting / <i>Membre du Storting</i> (SLP)
KNUTSEN, Tove Karoline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Storting / <i>Membre du Storting</i> (LP) ⁶¹
BRATTESTÅ, Hans (Mr./M.)	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
DAHL HOTVEDT, Bjørnar (Mr./M.)	
Adviser to the delegation / <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	
HØGE, Anne Laila (Ms./Mme)	Higher Executive Officer / <i>Administratrice principale</i>
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	

⁶¹ (LP: Labour Party
(PP: Progress Party
(SLP: Socialist Left Party

/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Parti progressiste*
/ *Parti socialiste de gauche*

OMAN

AL-MAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Majles A'Shura <i>Président du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL-KHARUSIYA, Nasheia (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Majles Addawla <i>Membre du Majles Addawla</i>
AL-HARTHIYA, Aseela (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Majles Addawla <i>Membre du Majles Addawla</i>
AL-BUSAIDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah <i>Membre du Majles A'Shura</i>
ALABRY, Zayid (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah <i>Membre du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL MASHANI, Salim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah <i>Membre du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL-MAMARI, Taleb (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah <i>Membre du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL BUSAIDI, Namaa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah <i>Membre du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL-MAHROOKI, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Majles A'Shura <i>Secrétaire général du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL-ANSARI, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Majles A'Shura
AL MARJIBI, Said (Mr./M.) Expert	Majles A'Shura
AL-MASHANI, Said (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Director, External Relations, Majles A'Shura <i>Directeur des relations extérieures du Majles A'Shura</i>
AL RAISI, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>

PAKISTAN

HUSSAIN BOKHARI, Syed Nayyer (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Chairman of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (PPPP)
NAEK, Farooq Hamid (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PPPP)
KHAN, Baz Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (ANP)
SOMROO, Abdul Wahid (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PPPP)
JATOI, Surayia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PPPP)
AZIZ, Donya (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MNA)
AKHTAR, Waseem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MQM)
VIRK, Mahmood Bashir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PML-N)
BIZENJO, Hasil Khan (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (NP)
CHAND, Lal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MNA) ⁶²

⁶² (PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
(ANP: Awami National Party
(MNA: Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal)
(MQM: Muttahida Quami Movement
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz
(NP: National Party

/ *Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais*
/ *Parti national Awami*

/ *Mouvement Mohajir Quami*
/ *Ligue musulmane pakistanaise Nawaz*
/ *Parti national*

BABAR, Iftikharullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Special Secretary, Senate / <i>Secrétaire spécial au Sénat</i>
KHALID, Nasim (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>
BUKHARI, Riaz Hussain (Mr./M.)	Joint Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat <i>Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KHOKHER, Aftab Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Joint Secretary, Senate / <i>Co-Secrétaire au Sénat</i>
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr./M.)	Joint Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat <i>Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HYDER, Ali (Mr./M.)	Personal Secretary to the Chairman of the Senate <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président du Sénat</i>
WASEEM, Iqbal (Mr./M.)	Director, International Relations <i>Directeur des relations internationales</i>

PALESTINE

QUBA'A, Taysir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-WAZIR, Intisar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-SALHI, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
ABDELKARIM, Qais (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-MAJDALAWI, Jamil (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
MOHAMAD, Iyad (Mr./M.)	Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)	Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>
AL-SHIN, Zuhair (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Palestine to Ethiopia <i>Ambassadeur de la Palestine en Ethiopie</i>	

PANAMA

SALERNO, Noriel (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (CD)</i>
ARAÚZ, Rony (Mr./M.)	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CASTAÑEDA, Dana (Ms./Mme)	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i>
BERNAL, Dalia (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i>
CASTILLO, Elías (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)</i>
ÁBREGO, Yanibel (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i>
MILLER, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i> ⁶³

⁶³ (CD: Democratic Change
(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party

/ *Changement démocratique*
/ *Parti révolutionnaire démocratique*

CASTILLO de SANMARTÍN, María Inés (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

MENDOZA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Panama in Geneva
Mission permanente du Panama à Genève

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PAPOUASIE-NOUVELLE-GUINEE

MANWAU, Moses (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Parliament, Chairman of the
HIV/AIDS Advocacy Committee / *Membre du Parlement
national, Président de la Commission sur la sensibilisation
au VIH/sida (PNCP)*⁶⁴

WHITCHURCH, Richard P. (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

Deputy Parliamentary Legal Counsel
Conseiller parlementaire juridique adjoint

PHILIPPINES

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee, Member of
the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil
directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Finance
Sénateur, Président de la Commission des finances

DAZA, Raul (Mr./M.)
Member of the Governing Council
Membre du Conseil directeur

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

RODRIGUEZ, Rufus (Mr./M.)
Member of the Governing Council
Membre du Conseil directeur

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

GARIN, Janette (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

GOLEZ, Roilo (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BARUA-YAP, Marilyn (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire générale de la Chambre des Représentants

BELLEN, Edwin (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Legislation Secretary, Senate
Secrétaire législatif adjoint au Sénat

De GUZMAN, Antonio Jr. (Mr./M.)
Adviser, Secretary of the Group
Conseiller, Secrétaire du Groupe

Director General / *Directeur général*

DALEON, Benjamin Paolo (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

LUCENARIO, Domingo, Jr. (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of the Philippines to Kenya
Ambassadeur des Philippines au Kenya

FELICIANO-GATMAYTAN, Donna Celeste (Ms./Mme)
Consul-General of the Philippines to Kenya
Consul-général des Philippines au Kenya

GARDUQUE, Marden (Mr./M.)
Embassy of the Philippines to Uganda
Ambassade des Philippines en Ouganda

BARCENAS, Sherwin (Mr./M.)
Embassy of the Philippines to Uganda
Ambassade des Philippines en Ouganda

⁶⁴ (PNCP: People's National Congress Party)

/ *Parti du Congrès national populaire*)

POLAND – POLOGNE

BUKIEWICZ, Bozenna (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PO)
NOWICKA, Wanda (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Sejm / <i>Vice-Présidente du Sejm</i> (RP)
ZIOLKOWSKI, Marek (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PO)
KALISZ, Ryszard (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (SLD)
MAZUREK, Beata (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PiS)
STEFANIUK, Franciszek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PSL)
WOJTCZAK, Michal Jozef (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PO)
WROBEL, Marzena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PS) ⁶⁵
CZAPLA, Lech (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Sejm / <i>Secrétaire général du Sejm</i>
POLKOWSKA, Ewa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire générale du Sénat</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Director, Analysis and Documentation Office, Chancellery of the Senate / <i>Directrice du Bureau de l'analyse et de la documentation, Chancellerie du Sénat</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	
KROPIWNICKI, Aleksander (Mr./M.) Embassy of Poland / <i>Ambassade de la Pologne</i>	

PORTUGAL

COSTA, Alberto (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PS)
ROSA, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
ALBERNAZ, Rosa Maria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PS)
PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
ALMEIDA, João (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (CDS) ⁶⁶
BOTELHO LEAL, Isabel (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Assistante parlementaire</i>

⁶⁵ (PO: Civic Platform / *Plate-forme civique*)
(RP: Palikot's Movement / *Mouvement Palikot*)
(SLD: Democratic Left Alliance / *Alliance de la gauche démocratique*)
(PiS: Law and Justice / *Droit et justice*)
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party / *Parti paysan polonais*)
(PS: Polish Solidarity / *Solidarité polonaise*)

⁶⁶ (PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
(PSD: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social démocratique*)
(CDS: Democratic and Social Centre / *Centre démocratique et social*)

QATAR

AL SULAITI, Mohamed Abdulla (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Controller of the Advisory Council <i>Questeur du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MEADADI, Rashid Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Secretariat of the Majlis Al-Shura / <i>Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction du Secrétariat du Majlis Al-Choura</i>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

LEE, Kyeong-Jae (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (SP)
CHOI, Young-Hee (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes</i> (UDP)
JANG, Sea-Hwan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UDP)
WON, Hee-Mok (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (SP) ⁶⁷
YOON, Won-Joong (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Seung-Gi (Mr./M.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Bureau <i>Directeur général du Bureau des affaires interparlementaires</i>
CHOI, Jin-Ho (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director General of the Management and Maintenance Bureau / <i>Directeur général du Bureau de la gestion et de l'entretien</i>
KANG, Dae-Hun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / <i>Directeur du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
RYU, Seung-Woo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
MOON, Sung Hwan (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
IM, So-Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
MOON, Sun-Hee (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Interpreter <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
CHO, Doo-Bum (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Interpreter <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Interprète</i>	Secretary to the Secretary General <i>Secrétaire du Secrétaire général</i>
WOO, Jee Hyun (Ms./Mme) Coordinator / <i>Coordinatrice</i>	Programme Officer / <i>Chargée de programme</i>

⁶⁷ (SP: Saenuri Party)
(UDP: United Democratic Party)

/ *Parti démocratique unifié*

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

FROLOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma / <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat</i>
SEMENOVA, Ekaterina (Ms./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the State Duma, Member of the Committee on Property / <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Membre de la Commission de la propriété (United Russia)</i> ⁶⁸
ZHAMBALNIMBUEV, Bato-Zhargal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
EMELYANOV, Vladimir (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma / <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat</i>
SVINAREV, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Council of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KARTSEV, Nikolay (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Division Head, International Department, Council of the Federation / <i>Chef du Département international, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Consultant, International Department, State Duma <i>Consultant principal, Département international de la Douma d'Etat</i>
PODOLINA, Olesya (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, International Department, Council of the Federation / <i>Conseillère au Département international du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TSUKANOV, Konstantin (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
LYAPICHEV, Semen (Mr./M.)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs / <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
NIKOLSKAYA, Maya (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
LEVDANSKAYA, Ella (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

RWANDA

NTAWUKULIRYAYO, Jean Damascène (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i>
MUKAKALISA, Faith (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
TWAGIRAYEZU, Jean-Marie (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
SENGABO MULIGANDE, Charles (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Diplomacy / <i>Diplomatie parlementaire</i>

SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN

BRONZETTI, Denise (Ms./Mme) Vice-President of the Group / <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PSD)</i>
TERENZI, Gianfranco (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)</i>
COLOMBINI, Enzo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (SU)</i> ⁶⁹
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

⁶⁸ (United Russia:/ *Russie unifiée*)⁶⁹ (PSD: Party of Socialists and Democrats/ *Parti des socialistes et des démocrates*)

(PDCS: Christian Democratic Party

/ *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)

(SU: United Left

/ *Gauche unie*)

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Shura Council <i>Président du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALNAMLAH, Saleh (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ELHAZMI, Mohsen (Mr./M.) President of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS <i>Président du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALSUGAIR, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	General Manager of Public Relations <i>Directeur général des relations publiques</i>
ALIBRAHIM, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>
ALMANSOUR, Khalid Mohammed (Mr./M.)	General Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department / <i>Directeur général du Département des relations interparlementaires</i>
ALSAEED, Mohammed Nasser (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Relations Officer <i>Chargé des relations parlementaires</i>
HOBROM, Akram (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Manager, Translation Services <i>Directeur du Service de la traduction</i>
ALHARBI, Yousif (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker / <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
ALOMAIR, Fahad (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker / <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
ALSHALHOOB, Fahad (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
ALBELEHEE, Saud (Mr./M.)	Staff, Speaker's Office / <i>Secrétariat du Bureau du Président</i>
ALSALMAN, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ALQAHTANI, Abdulhadi (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

SEYCHELLES

SOURIS, Mirena (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PL)</i> ⁷⁰
AZAREL, Ernesta (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>

SIERRA LEONE

BANKOLE STRONGE, Abel Nathaniel (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Parliament / <i>Président du Parlement</i>
KOWA, Emma (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (SLPP)</i> ⁷¹
SONGA, Moriba (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Clerk / <i>Greffier</i>
KOROMA, Aminata (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	

⁷⁰ (PL: Parti Lepep)⁷¹ (SLPP: Sierra Leone People's Party/ *Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone*)

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

LIM, Wee Kiak (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Transport Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission des transports (PAP)</i>
SAPARI, Zainal (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i>
LOW, Penny (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i> ⁷²
CHEN, Xiaulin (Ms./Mme)	
Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

SISULU, Max Vuyisile (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SCHNEEMAN, Gregory (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
KALYAN, Santosh Vinita (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (DA)</i>
MAGAMA, Hargreaves (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
KUBAYI, Mmamoloko Tryphosa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
RAMATLAKANE, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (COPE)</i>
MASHAMAITE, Tthalesi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
RANHOTO, Daphne Zukiswa (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (ANC)</i>
MPONTSHANE, Alfred Mkhhipheni (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (IFP)</i>
HAJAIG, Fatima (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the International Relations Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission des relations internationales (ANC)</i> ⁷³
MANSURA, Mohamed Kamal (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
PHINDELA, Eric (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Council of Provinces <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil national des provinces</i>
LEBEKO, Peter (Mr./M.)	Official / <i>Fonctionnaire</i>
SOMGQEZA, Kaya (Mr./M.)	Division Manager, International Relations and Protocol <i>Directeur de la Division des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
PAULSE, Cheryl Ann (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	International Relations Officer <i>Chargée des relations internationales</i>
JARDINE, Zurina (Mrs./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	International Relations Assistant <i>Assistante aux relations internationales</i>
DAVIDS, Petronilla (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser to the Secretary General <i>Conseillère du Secrétaire général</i>
KESWA, Nomonde Patience (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Division Manager for the Legislation and Oversight <i>Directrice du Service de la législation et du contrôle</i>

⁷² (PAP: People's Action Party/ *Parti d'action populaire*)⁷³ (ANC: African National Congress/ *Congrès national africain*)

(DA: Democratic Alliance

/ *Alliance démocratique*)

(COPE: Congress of the People

/ *Congrès du Peuple*)

(IFP: Inkatha Freedom Party

/ *Parti de la liberté Inkatha*)

CANNON, Merle (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante particulière du Président</i>
MERCKEL, Jill (Ms./Mme)	Official / <i>Fonctionnaire</i>
SAIT-WILLIAMS, Lynette (Ms./Mme)	Official / <i>Fonctionnaire</i>
KHUZWAYO, June (Ms./Mme)	Official / <i>Fonctionnaire</i>

SOUTH SUDAN / SOUDAN DU SUD

WANI IGGA, James (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée législative nationale</i>
NYIKWEC, Onyoti Adigo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
MAJON JONG, Machok (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
AYA ALEX, Janet (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
BENJAMIN GABRIEL, Sara (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
GWORITI, Kose Joseph (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président</i>
JADA, Emmanuel Alesio (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
NAMARA, Andrew (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
ODER, Marchelo Leopoldo (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
WILLIAM WANI, Reuben (Mr./M.) Ambassador / <i>Ambassadeur</i>	

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

GIL LAZARO, Ignacio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)</i>
MOSCOSO, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)</i>
GARCÍA-TIZON, Arturo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)</i>
SANZ, Antolín (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PP)</i>
BURGOS, Tomas (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PP)</i>
CHIQUILLO, José María (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PP)</i>
MONTESERÍN, María Virtudes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)</i>
PIGEM, Mercé (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (CiU)</i> ⁷⁴

⁷⁴ (PP: People's Party
(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party
(CiU: Convergence and Union

/ *Parti populaire*
/ *Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol*
/ *Convergence et union*)

CAVERO, Manuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme)
Adviser / *Conseillère*

JUAREZ, M. Rosa (Ms./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

SRI LANKA

DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of Parliament, Minister of Irrigation and Water
Resources Management / *Membre du Parlement, Ministre de
la gestion de l'irrigation et des ressources hydriques (UPFA)*

SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Minister of Plantation Industries
*Membre du Parlement, Ministre du Secteur des
plantations (UPFA)*

WEERAKKODY, Chandima (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Vice-Président du Parlement (UPFA)

ATTANAYAKE, Tissa (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UNP)*

JAYASINGHE, Chandrani Bandara (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UNP)*⁷⁵

IDDAWALA, Neil (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

SUDAN – SOUDAN

EL-TAHIR, Ahmed Ibrahim (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

EL HASSAN AL AMIN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the
Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée
nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires
étrangères*

IBRAHIM MOHAMED, Mahdi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

OSMAN GAKNOUN, Marwa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ABDALLA HUSSAIN, Malik (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

EL SIDDIG, El Simaih (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of
the Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée
nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires
étrangères*

IBRAHIM, Mohamed Ibrahim (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

MUSA SHAIKH AL SAFI, Hassan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Council of States
Secrétaire général du Conseil des Etats

ABDALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

OSMAN, Ali (Mr./M.)

Assistant Administrative Secretary
Secrétaire administratif adjoint

AL TAYEB IBRAHIM, Hisham (Mr./M.)
Secretary / *Secrétaire*

Secretary, Speaker's Office
Secrétaire au Bureau du Président

⁷⁵ (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance
(UNP: United National Party

/ *Alliance de la liberté populaire unifiée)*
(Parti national uni)

SURINAME

RATHIPAL, Mahinderpersad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (VHP)
BEE, Marinus (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ministry for Social Affairs and Housing, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ministry for Sport and Youth Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires sociales et du logement, Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des sports et de la jeunesse</i> (BEP) ⁷⁶

SWEDEN – SUEDE

HOLM, Ulf (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag <i>Deuxième Vice-Président du Riksdag</i>
AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (m)
ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (s)
KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law / <i>Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (m)
NILSSON, Ulf (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (fp)
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (s)
AXELSSON, Lennart (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (s)
WINBÄCK, Christer (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag</i> (fp) ⁷⁷
MÅRTENSSON, Claes (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
MÅNSSON, Ann-Louise (Ms./Mme)	Head of the International Department <i>Chef du Département international</i>
EKLÖF, Lena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire au Département international</i>
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire au Département international</i>
TUNVED, Ann-Charlott (Ms./Mme)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
ESBJÖRNSSON, Erik (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

BIERI, Peter (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats</i> (CVP/PDC)
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⁷⁶ (VHP: Progressive Reform Party
(BEP: Brotherhood and Unity in Politics

⁷⁷ (m: Moderate Party
(s: Social Democratic Party
(fp: Liberal Party

/ *Parti progressif de réforme*
/ *Fraternité et unité en politique*
/ *Parti modéré*
/ *Parti social-démocrate*
/ *Parti libéral*)

VEILLON, Pierre-François (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i>
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (FDP/PLR)</i>
KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SP/PS)</i>
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i> ⁷⁸
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations Division <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales</i>
PIOTET, Laure (Mrs./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

HADDAD, Suleiman (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission des affaires arabes et étrangères (B)</i>
TAGHLIBI, Mhd Zoheir (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Planning Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission de la planification (B)</i>
ALISSA, Fajr (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
KASSAM, Khaldon (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
AZIZ, Rama (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly, Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Rapporteur de la Commission des affaires étrangères (B)</i> ⁷⁹

THAILAND – THAILANDE

MEEPIEN, Teeradej (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i>
BOONTONG, Tassana (Ms./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>

⁷⁸ (CVP/PDC: Christian Democrat People's Party
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party
(FDP/PLR: The Liberals
(SP/PS: Social Democratic Party

/ *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)
/ *Union démocratique du centre*)
/ *Les libéraux-radicaux*)
/ *Parti socialiste*)

⁷⁹ (B: Baath Party

/ *Parti Baath*)

TANBANJONG, Phairoj (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PT)
KLAMPAIBOON, Ong-art (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (DP)
CHULPONGSATORN, Sunai (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères</i> (PT)
HANSUEBSAI, Charin (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
RATCHAKITPRAKARN, Natee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (BP) ⁸⁰
PUMHIRAN, Pitoon (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
VANIGBANDHU, Sompol (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MANUNPICHU, Somsak (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat</i>
MEEPIEN, Panurat (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Vice-President of the Senate <i>Conseiller du Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
KHAMASUNDARA, Supasinee (Ms./Mme)	Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / <i>Conseillère des affaires étrangères, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
PUTORNJAI, La-Or (Mrs./Mme)	Director of the Bureau for Foreign Affairs of the Senate <i>Directrice du Bureau des affaires étrangères du Sénat</i>
CHAOWALITTAWIL, Saithip (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / <i>Directrice du Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Senior Foreign Affairs Officer in charge of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / <i>Chargée principale des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAEWONG, Saensak (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

⁸⁰ (PT: Pheu Thai Party
(DP: Democratic Party
(BP: Bhumjaithai Party

/ *Parti Pheu Thai*)
/ *Parti démocratique*)
/ *Parti Bhumjaithai*)

NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Senior Foreign Relations Officer in charge of the Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations
Chargé principal des relations étrangères de la Division de l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires

SUNGTO, Neeranan (Miss/Mlle)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Foreign Relations Officer, Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations / *Chargée des relations étrangères de la Division de l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires*

TIANCHAKUL, Weeranuch (Ms./Mme)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Senate
Chargée des affaires étrangères au Sénat

NUANMANEE, Pakorn (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Senate
Chargé des affaires étrangères au Sénat

TRIAMJANAGARUN, Somsak (Mr./M.)
Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Thailand to Kenya
Chargé d'affaires, Ambassade de la Thaïlande au Kenya

PRASARTKUL, Arthit (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Thailand to Kenya
Ambassade de la Thaïlande au Kenya

TIMOR-LESTE

VIEGAS, Maria Terezinha (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Parliament
Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)

NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Parliament
Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)

SARMENTO, Domingos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Parliament
Membre du Parlement national

MESQUITA, Domingos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Parliament
*Membre du Parlement national (PUN)*⁸¹

AMARAL, João Rui (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Da CONCEÇÃO, Joaquim (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

TILMAN, Digna Amelia (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / *Conseillère*

TOGO

OURO BANG'NA, Nassara (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (RPT)

AMEGNONAN, Kossi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CAR)

⁸¹ (CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / *Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor*)
(PUN: National Unity Party / *Parti de l'unité nationale*)

AHOLOU, Kokou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFC)*⁸²**UGANDA – OUGANDA**OULANYAH, Jacob L. (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Vice-Président du Parlement (NRM)

KATAAHA MUSEVENI, Janet (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament, Minister
Membre du Parlement, Ministre (NRM)

TURIAHIKAYO, Paula (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (NRM)*

BAYIGGA, Michael Lulume (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (DP)*

NINSIIMA RONAH, Rita (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (Ind)*

ACHENG, Joy Ruth (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UPC)*

BALYEJUSA KIRUNDA, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (NRM)*

NOKRACH WILSON, William (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on
Gender, Labour and Social Development / *Membre du*
Parlement, Président de la Commission des questions
de genre, du travail et du développement social (NRM)

OKETTA, Julius (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UPDF)*

SSEBAGALA SENGENDO, Abdu Latif (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (DP)*

KIIZA, Winnie (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (FDC)*

AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UPC)*⁸³KIBIRIGE, Jane L. (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Clerk of Parliament / *Secrétaire générale*

NASSALI, Mariam (Ms./Mme)

Principal Clerk Assistant / *Greffière adjointe principale*BARUNGI, Merina (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*KAGANZI, Martha (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / *Conseillère*NYAMWENGE MUKYASI, Alice (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / *Conseillère***UKRAINE**TOMENKO, Mykola (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada
Vice-Président du Verkhovna Rada (B)

KOVAL, Viachesav (Mr./M.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada
Membre du Verkhovna Rada (PSD)

DEMYANCHUK, Viktoria (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada
*Membre du Verkhovna Rada (KPU)*⁸⁴ROSTISLAV, Palahusynets (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*⁸² (RPT: Togolese People's Rally
(CAR: Action Committee for Renewal
(UFC: Union of Forces for Change/ *Rassemblement du peuple togolais*
/ *Comité d'action pour le renouveau*
/ *Union des forces de changement*)⁸³ (NRM: National Resistance Movement
(DP: Democratic Party
(Ind: Independent
(UPC: Uganda People's Congress
(UPDF: Uganda People's Defence Forces/ *Mouvement de la Résistance nationale*)
/ *Parti démocratique*)
/ *Indépendant*)
/ *Congrès populaire de l'Ouganda*
/ *Forces armées populaires ougandaises*)⁸⁴ (B: Nationwide Ukrainian Bloc « Batkivschchyna »
(PSD: Bloc « Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense »
(KPU: Communist Party of Ukraine/ *Forum pour un changement démocratique*)
/ *Bloc national ukrainien « Batkivschchyna »*)
/ *Bloc Notre Ukraine - Autodéfense populaire*)
/ *Parti communiste d'Ukraine*)

BURAVCHENKOV, Oleksandr (Mr./M.)
Chargé d'affaires

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

AL MURR, Mohammed Ahmed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Président du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL QUBAISI, Amal Abdulla (Ms./Mme)	First Deputy Chairperson of the Federal National Council <i>Première Vice-Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHURAIQI, Rashed Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
BIN HEM, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MANSOORI, Ahmed Obaid (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL BAHAR, Muna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MAZROOI, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Federal National Council <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHAMSI, Abdulrahman Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant Secretary General of the Federal National Council <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Researcher / <i>Chercheur parlementaire</i>
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Public Relations Officer / <i>Chargé des relations publiques</i>
AL AQILI, Ahmad Mohammad (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Public Relations Officer / <i>Chargé des relations publiques</i>
AL BLOUSHI, Hamda Ali (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
AL SHAMSI, Omar (Mr./M.)	Manager, Speaker's Office / <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président</i>
AL MARRI, Badr (Mr./M.)	Public Relations Officer / <i>Chargé des relations publiques</i>
AL ZAROUNI, Issa (Mr./M.)	Media Executive / <i>Chargé des médias</i>
AL SHEHADAT, Maher Khaled (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
EL NAEIMY, Yasser Farouk (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
AL FATEH Mohammed (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons, Chair, European Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes, Président de la Commission des affaires européennes (C)</i>
Rt. Hon. CLWYD, Ann (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
EVANS, Nigel (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
RENNARD, Chris (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>

JUDD, Frank (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
Rt. Hon. DONALDSON, Jeffrey (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (DUP)</i>
POPAT, Dolar (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)</i>
FAULKNER, Richard (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i> ⁸⁵
REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary / <i>Secrétaire adjointe</i>	
LIBEROTTI, Gabriella (Miss/Mlle) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administrative</i>	
KENYON, Stephanie (Miss/Mlle) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administrative</i>	
PITTS, Barbara (Ms./Mme)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office Adviser / <i>Conseillère au Bureau des affaires étrangères et du Commonwealth</i>
HASELHURST, Alan (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) / <i>Président de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth</i>
HELME, Philippa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
BEAMISH, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
MARK, Steven (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary of the ASGP / <i>Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	
STURT, Jenny (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	
SHEARMAN, Martin (Mr./M.) British High Commissioner / <i>Consul britannique</i>	
McKINNELL, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) British High Commission / <i>Consulat britannique</i>	
KYOSIMIIRWE (Ms./Mme) British High Commission / <i>Consulat britannique</i>	
WARD, Chris (Mr./M.) British High Commission / <i>Consulat britannique</i>	

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

MAKINDA, Anne (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
LYIMO, Susan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Spokesperson of the Committee on Education and Vocational Training <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Porte-parole de la Commission de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle (CHADEMA)</i>
KAIRUKI, Angellah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des droits de l'homme (CCM)</i>

⁸⁵ (C: Conservative Party
(L: Labour Party
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats
(DUP: Democratic Unionist Party

/ *Parti conservateur*
/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Démocrates libéraux*
/ *Parti démocrate unioniste*

MOHAMMED, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Trade Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission de la finance et du commerce</i> (CUF)
KAFULILA, David (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (NCCR-Mageuzi) ⁸⁶
KASHILILAH, Thomas (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
JOEL, John (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Acting Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général ad interim</i>
MPANDA, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Clerk / <i>Assistant du Secrétaire général</i>
ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Director/Adviser, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur/Conseiller au Bureau de la Présidente</i>
WARBURG, James (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Assistant Director, Table Office / <i>Directeur adjoint du Service de l'ordre du jour</i>
BEREGE, Herman (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant particulier de la Présidente</i>

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (FA)
XAVIER, Monica (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, Member of the Governing Council (01/04/2012) <i>Membre du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida, Membre du Conseil directeur (01/04/2012)</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (FA)
TAJAM, Héctor (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (02-05/04/2012) <i>Membre du Conseil directeur (02-05/04/2012)</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (FA)
HEBER, Luis Alberto (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (03-05/04/2012) <i>Membre du Conseil directeur (03-05/04/2012)</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PN)
MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (04-05/04/2012) <i>Membre du Conseil directeur (04-05/04/2012)</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (FA)
GAMOU, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (FA) ⁸⁷
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	Head of the International Relations Department <i>Directeur du Département des relations internationales</i>
GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Group, GRULAC Secretariat <i>Conseillère du Groupe, Secrétariat du GRULAC</i>	International Relations Department <i>Département des relations internationales</i>

⁸⁶ (CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania / *Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie*)
(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development / *Parti de la démocratie et du développement*)
(CUF: Civic United Front / *Front civique unifié*)
(NCCR-Mageuzi: National Convention for Construction and Reform - Mageuzi / *Convention nationale pour la construction et la réforme - Mageuzi*)

⁸⁷ (FA: Frente Amplio (Broad Front) / *Front élargi*)
(PN: National Party / *Parti national*)

VENEZUELA

VIVAS, Ramon Darío (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Popular Power and Media <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission permanente du pouvoir populaire et des médias (PSUV)</i>
MATA, Victoria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)</i>
REQUENA, Gladys (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Culture and Leisure Activities <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la culture et des loisirs (PSUV)</i> ⁸⁸
AULAR MARTINEZ, Luis Alejandro (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>

VIET NAM

NGUYEN THI KIM NGAN (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV)</i>
LE THI YEN (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV)</i>
DAO TAN LOC (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV)</i>
VU HAI HA (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV)</i> ⁸⁹
NGUYEN THI THUY NGAN (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Vice-President <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président</i>
DAO DU Y TRUNG (Mr./M.)	Head, Inter-Parliamentary Division, Foreign Affairs Department / <i>Chef de la Division interparlementaire du Département des affaires étrangères</i>
PHAM THI THU HUONG (Mrs./Mme)	Staff, Foreign Affairs Department <i>Secrétariat du Département des affaires étrangères</i>
TRAN HAI LE (Mr./M.)	Staff, Foreign Affairs Department <i>Secrétariat du Département des affaires étrangères</i>
NGUYEN VAN HUNG (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDA, Esther (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
CHITOTELA, Ronald (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
ANTONIO, Jose Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)</i>
CHISHIBA, James (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)</i>
MWIIMBU, Jacob (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)</i> ⁹⁰

⁸⁸ (PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela/ *Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela*)⁸⁹ (CPV: Communist Party/ *Parti communiste*)

MWINGA, Katai Doris (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGULUBE, Roy (Mr./M.)	Executive Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant exécutif du Président</i>
MPOLOKOSO, Anthony (Mr./M.)	Public and International Relations Officer <i>Chargé des relations publiques et internationales</i>
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
CHABU, Alfred (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

ZIMBABWE

MOYO, Lovemore (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC)</i>
MUCHENJE, Virginia (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice (ZANU-PF)</i>
MADZIMURE, Willias (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de la Chambre des Assemblées (MDC)</i>
GAULE, Believe (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (MDC)</i>
MANGENA, Jabulani (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de la Chambre des Assemblées (ZANU-PF)</i>
CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de la Chambre des Assemblées (MDC)</i>
KHUMALO Thabitha (Ms./Mme) Member of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS <i>Membre du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida</i>	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de la Chambre des Assemblées (MDC)</i> ⁹¹
ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Parliament / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.)	Director, Clerk's Office <i>Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général</i>
MAPENDERE, Elias (Mr./M.)	Assistant Counsel to Parliament <i>Assistant Conseiller du Parlement</i>
ZITHA, Xolani (Mr./M.)	Manager, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président</i>
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
MATINHARI, Ruvimbo (Ms./Mme)	Research Officer / <i>Chargée de la recherche</i>
SIBANDA, Robert (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBRES ASSOCIES

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA) ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE (ALEA)

ABDI, Haithar Abdirahin (Mr./M.), Speaker, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président, Chef de la délégation</i>
OGALO, Dan (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament (Uganda) / <i>Membre du Parlement (Ouganda)</i>
NSABIMANA, Yves (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament (Burundi) / <i>Membre du Parlement (Burundi)</i>
KIMURA, Catherine (Ms./Mme), Member of Parliament (Kenya) / <i>Membre du Parlement (Kenya)</i>

⁹⁰ (PF: Patriotic Front / *Front patriotique*)
(UPND: United Party for National Development / *Parti uni pour le développement national*)
(MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy / *Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste*)

⁹¹ (MDC: Movement for Democratic Change / *Mouvement pour un changement démocratique*)
(ZANU-PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / *Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe*)

MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.), Member of the ASGP, Clerk / *Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire général*
 MUGUME, Stephen (Mr./M.), Secretary of the Group, Adviser / *Secrétaire du Groupe, Conseiller*
 AMPAIRE, Loice (Ms./Mme), Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*
 KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme), Protocol Officer / *Chargée du protocole*
 KYOMUHANGI, Charlotte (Ms./Mme), Conference Management / *Coordinatrice de conférences*
 OKEMA, Emily (Ms./Mme), Conference Management / *Coordinatrice de conférences*

PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)

SERE SEREME, Sarah (Ms./Mme), Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Leader of the delegation / *Vice-Présidente du Parlement, Chef de la délégation*
 OBENDE, Domingo Alaba (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 MALAM CHAIBOU, Sani Boucary (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 ESUENE, Helen (Ms./Mme), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 DIAKITE, Mohamed (Mr./M.), Member of the ASGP, Secretary General / *Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire général*
 TRAORE, Alfred M'Pe (Mr./M.), Acting Director, Parliamentary Affairs / *Directeur par intérim des affaires parlementaires*
 NJAI, Isatou Combete (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser / *Conseillère juridique*
 ABALO, Koffi (Mr./M.), Chief Protocol Officer / *Chef du protocole*

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
COMITE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE OUEST-AFRICAINE (UEMOA)

DRAMANI, Dama (Mr./M.), President / *Président*
 AMADOU, Nana Mariama El Hadj (Ms./Mme), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr./M.), Member of the ASGP, Secretary General / *Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire général*

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN

CASTILLO, Elías (Mr./M.), President, Member of the Parliament of Panama / *Président, membre du Parlement panaméen*
 RAMÓN SANCHEZ, José (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament (Venezuela) / *Membre du Parlement (Venezuela)*
 CASTILLO DE SANMARTIN, María Inés (Ms./Mme), Adviser, President's Interpreter / *Conseillère, Interprète du Président*

TRANSITIONAL ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE TRANSITOIRE

EL KHALIL, Teyib (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 ALI DIRIE, Arab (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

UNITED NATIONS (UN)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)

MUBURI-MUITA, Zachary (Mr./M.), Head, United Nations Office to the African Union / *Chef du Bureau des Nations Unies auprès de l'Union africaine*
 CASINI, Gherardo (Mr./M.), Head, UN-DESA Office in Rome / *Chef du Bureau UN-DESA à Rome*
 BEYANI, Chaloka (Mr./M.), Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons / *Rapporteur spécial sur les droits de l'homme des personnes déplacées dans leur propre pays*

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

GRYNSPAN, Rebecca (Ms./Mme), Associate Administrator / *Administratrice associée*

MORENO, Pedro Manuel (Mr./M.), Programme Specialist / *Spécialiste de programme*

JURGENSEN, Cédric (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Development Adviser / *Conseiller en développement parlementaire*

Uganda Office / Bureau en Ouganda

NIKYEMA, Theophane (Mr./M.), Resident Representative, Resident Coordinator for Uganda / *Représentant résident, Coordonnateur résident pour l'Ouganda*

MOTLANA, Lebogang (Mr./M.), Country Director / *Directeur national*

MUNDEA, Maureen (Ms./Mme), Regional Communications Adviser / *Conseillère régionale en communication*

**UN MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN
OBJECTIF DU MILLENAIRE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT**

FALU NIJE, Sering (Mr./M.), Deputy Director, Policy, MDG / *Sous-Directeur de la politique des OMD*

ABUGRE AKELYIRA, Charles (Mr./M.), Regional Director, Africa / *Directeur régional pour l'Afrique*

OGBONA, Hilary (Ms./Mme), National Coordinator, Nigeria / *Coordinatrice nationale pour le Nigéria*

MUFFUH, Nelson (Mr./M.), Regional Coordinator, West Africa / *Coordinateur régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest*

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

LAKE, Anthony (Mr./M.), Executive Director / *Directeur exécutif*

SCHULTINK, Werner (Mr./M.), Chief of Nutrition, Associate Director of Programmes / *Chef de la nutrition, Directeur associé de programmes*

PONET, David (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Specialist / *Spécialiste parlementaire*

Uganda Office / Bureau en Ouganda

SAPRA, Sharad (Mr./M.), Representative / *Représentant*

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION**

OSOTIMEHIN, Babatunde (Mr./M.), Under Secretary General and Executive Director / *Sous-Secrétaire général et Directeur exécutif*

ARMITAGE, Alanna (Ms./Mme), Director, Geneva Office / *Directrice, Bureau de Genève*

OJUOLAPE, Niyi (Mr./M.), Special Assistant to the Executive Director / *Assistant spécial du Directeur exécutif*

Uganda Office / Bureau en Ouganda

JACKSON, Janet (Ms./Mme), Representative, / *Représentante*

COMPAORE ZOUNGRANA, Cécile (Ms./Mme), Deputy Representative / *Représentante adjointe*

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)**

TLOU, Sheila (Ms./Mme), Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa / *Directeur régional pour l'Afrique orientale et méridionale*

EBA, Patrick (Mr./M.), Human Rights and Law Adviser / *Conseiller juridique pour les droits de l'homme*

KIRAGU, Karusa (Ms./Mme), Senior Adviser / *Conseillère principale*

ABDEL AZIZ, Yasmine (Ms./Mme), Advocacy Adviser / *Conseillère « Advocacy »*

Uganda Office / Bureau en Ouganda

BUNGUDU, Musa (Mr./M.), Head of the Country Office / *Chef du Bureau national*

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
HAUT COMMISSAIRE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES**

WAGACHA BURTON, John (Mr./M.), Public Health Officer, Nairobi Office / *Chargé de la santé, Bureau de Nairobi*

Uganda Office / Bureau en Ouganda

KIRAGU, Esther (Ms./Mme), Senior Protection Officer, Kampala Office / *Chargée principale de la protection, Bureau de Kampala*

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UNISDR)
STRATÉGIE INTERNATIONALE DES NATIONS UNIES DE LA PRÉVENTION DES CATASTROPHES
(ONU-SIPC)**

KAN, Feng Min (Ms./Mme), Special Adviser to UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
Conseillère spéciale du Sous-Secrétaire général de l'ONU à la réduction des risques de catastrophe

ANGULO-THORLUND, Ana Cristina (Ms./Mme), Programme Officer / *Chargée de programme*

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

SAWEKA, Joaquim (Mr./M.), Representative for Uganda / *Représentant en Ouganda*

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

OKONG, Pius (Mr./M.), Member / *Membre*

McDOUGALL, Lori (Ms./Mme), Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Advocacy / *Chargée principale, Policy and Advocacy*

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)
CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE (CDB)**

GLOWKA, Lyle (Mr./M.), Programme Officer / *Chargé de programme*

**WORLD BANK
BANQUE MONDIALE**

SHALITA, Steven (Mr./M.), Senior Partnership and Communication Specialist for East Africa
Specialiste principal des partenariats et de la communication pour l'Afrique de l'Est

GASHISHIRI, Sheila (Ms./Mme), Public Information Assistant / *Assistante à l'information publique*

* * * * *

**AFRICAN UNION (AU)
UNION AFRICAINE (UA)**

JOINER, Julia Dolly (Ms./Mme), Commissioner for Political Affairs / *Commissaire aux affaires politiques*

**LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES**

YUMNI, Mohamed (Mr./M.), Head of International Organizations Division / *Chef de la Division des organisations internationales*

* * * * *

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)**

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE (UIPA)**

BOUCHKOUJ, Noureddine (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOKAYES, Ahmad (Mr./M.), Director of Inter-Parliamentary Relations / *Directeur des relations interparlementaires*

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

NEJAD HOSSEINIAN, Mohammad Hadi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Advisor to the Secretary General / *Conseiller du Secrétaire général*

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
ASSOCIATION PARLEMENTAIRE DU COMMONWEALTH**

HASELHURST, Alan (Mr./M.), International Chairperson / *Président international*

**CONFEDERATION OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
CONFEDERATION PARLEMENTAIRE DES AMERIQUES**

JIMÉNEZ MACÍAS, Carlos (Mr./M.), Member of the Mexican Parliament, President of the GRULAC
Membre du Parlement mexicain, Président du GRULAC
NAVA, Eduardo (Mr./M.), Member of the Mexican Parliament / *Membre du Parlement mexicain*
MENDIOLA, Alma (Ms./Mme), Adviser / *Conseillère*

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS
INDEPENDANTS**

SHILO, Dmitry (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General, Member of the Parliament of Belarus / *Secrétaire général
adjoint, Membre du Parlement du Belarus*

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
(IPU-IGAD)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ÉTATS MEMBRES DE L'AUTORITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (UIP-IGAD)**

BOURHAN, Daoud Ahmed (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
KANGUMBA ADYERI, Edgar (Mr./M.), Director, Political Affairs / *Directeur des affaires politiques*

**MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF MAGHREBIN**

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN
EUROPE (OSCE)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION
EN EUROPE**

MIGLIORI, Riccardo (Mr./M.), Member of the Italian Parliament / *Membre du Parlement italien*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

YEMELIYANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.), Chairman of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee / *Président de la
Commission des affaires légales et politiques*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)**

MIGLIORI, Riccardo (Mr./M.), Member of the Italian Parliament / *Membre du Parlement italien*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURQUE**

ALIYEV, Ilham (Mr./M.), Member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan / *Membre du Parlement d'Azerbaïdjan*
KURSHAD MELIH, Sariarslan (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEMBER STATES (PUOICM)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'ORGANISATION DE LA CONFERENCE ISLAMIQUE (UPMOCI)

EROL KILIC, Mahmud (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA SADC

KHOUBLALL, Mahendrasing (Mr./M.), Member / *Membre*

CHIVIYA, Esau (Mr./M.), Member / *Membre*

* * * * *

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

WEIDENBACH, Sophie (Ms./Mme)

* * * * *

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

KAGARI, Michelle (Ms./Mme), Deputy Director / *Directrice adjointe*

GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)
CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES – GENEVE

GYA, Giji (Mrs./Mme), Head of the Deputy Director's Office / *Directrice du Bureau du Directeur adjoint*

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA
LE FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME

ROBINSON, Svend (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Parliamentary Relations and Special Initiatives

Conseiller spécial des relations parlementaires et des initiatives spéciales

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

GHOSHAL, Neela (Ms./Mme), Researcher LGBT Rights Division / *Chercheuse à la Division "LGBT Rights"*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)

CONTI, Riccardo (Mr./M.), Regional Office, Kampala / *Bureau régional, Kampala*

NAMWASE, Sylvie (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser / *Conseillère juridique*

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE (FICR)

BOSWIJK, Sanne (Ms./Mme), Disaster Law Delegate for Africa / *Déléguée de l'Afrique sur le droit des catastrophes*

INTERNATIONAL IDEA

MOORAD, Mustaq (Mr./M.), Regional Director of the Africa Region / *Directeur régional de la région Afrique*

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL

HUBER, Andrea (Ms./Mme), Policy Director / *Directrice politique*

MACALESHER, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme), Death Penalty Project Manager / *Directrice du projet sur la peine de mort*

**ADVISERS FOLLOWING THE WORK OF THE
126th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**CONSEILLERS SUIVANT LES TRAVAUX DE LA
126^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

ISRAEL

MELLER-HOROVITZ, Yarden (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
KRICHLI, Lea (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Assistant to the Secretary General <i>Assistante du Secrétaire général</i>
ADAM, Ron (Mr./M.)	Director, Department of International Organizations and Specialized Agencies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur du Département des organisations internationales et agences spécialisées, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
ZILBERMAN, Moshe (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	

**OBSERVERS INVITED TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE 126th ASSEMBLY
IN LIGHT OF THE ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA**

**OBSERVATEURS INVITES A SUIVRE LES TRAVAUX DE LA 126^{ème} ASSEMBLEE
A LA LUMIERE DES POINTS INSCRITS A SON ORDRE DU JOUR**

WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

GERMANN, Stefan (Mr./M.), Director, Partnerships and Global Health / *Directeur des Partenariats mondiaux pour la santé*

KINTU, James (Mr./M.), Associate Director, Advocacy / *Directeur associé, Advocacy*

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
126th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE
LA 126^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

MUBURI-MUITA, Zachari (Mr./M.), Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, UN Secretary General Representative / *Chef du Bureau des Nations Unies auprès de l'Union africaine, Représentant du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies*

LAKE, Anthony (Mr./M.), Executive Director, UNICEF / *Directeur exécutif de l'UNICEF*

OSOTIMEHIN, Babatunde (Mr./M.), Director, UNFPA / *Directeur de l'UNFPA*

GRYNSPAN, Rebeca (Ms./Mme), Associate Administrator, UNDP / *Administratrice associée, PNUD*

BEYANI, Chaloka (Mr./M.), Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
Rapporteur spécial sur les droits de l'homme des personnes déplacées dans leur propre pays

POWER, Greg (Mr./M.), Author of the Global Parliamentary Report / *Auteur du Rapport parlementaire mondial*

BLACKMAN-WOODS, Roberta (Ms./Mme), Member of the British Parliament / *Membre du Parlement britannique*

**Panel discussion on « The role parliamentarians could play in tackling malnutrition in young children »
*Réunion-débat sur le thème « Eradiquer la malnutrition des enfants : le rôle des parlementaires en matière de sécurité nutritionnelle »***

MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, António (Mr./M.), Nutrition Advocate for West Africa, Former President of Cape-Verde
Promoteur de la nutrition pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, ancien Président du Cap-Vert

Panel discussion on « Making the law work for the response to AIDS: zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths »**Réunion-débat sur le thème « Mettre le droit au service de la lutte contre le sida pour qu'il n'y ait plus de contaminations, plus de discrimination et plus de décès liés au sida »**

LEE, Barbara (Ms./Mme), Congresswoman, United States of America, Member of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, Co-Chair of the US Congressional Task Force on HIV/AIDS / *Membre du Congrès des États-Unis d'Amérique, Membre de la Commission mondiale sur le VIH et le droit, Co-Présidente du « US Congressional Task Force on HIV/AIDS »*

TUMWESIGYE, Elioda (Mr./M.), MP, Uganda / *Député ougandais*

MALECHE, Allan (Mr./M.), Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN)
Réseau kényan sur les questions juridiques et éthiques touchant au VIH et au sida

CLAYTON, Michaela (Ms./Mme), AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (Namibia)
Alliance sida et droits pour l'Afrique australe (Namibie)

MICELI, Ann (Ms./Mme), Moderator / *Modératrice*

Informal Panel discussion on « Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development »**Réunion-débat informelle sur le thème « Réduction des risques de catastrophe et développement durable »**

BYARUGABA, Alex (Mr./M.), MP, Uganda / *Député ougandais*

ARAÚZ, Rony (Mr./M.), Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Panama / *Vice-Président du Parlement panaméen*

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
BUREAU DU PRÉSIDENT DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

EL KHETTAR, Hassan (Mr./M.)

Head of the Office of the President / *Chef du Bureau du Président*